

UNIT 304

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY STATE HISTORIC PARK

GENERAL PLAN

April 1979

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY S.H.P.

**FINAL
4-79**

GENERAL PLAN



NOVEMBER 1978

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

Report was prepared by:

Donald R. Hook	Associate Landscape Architect
David R. Keck	Assistant Landscape Architect
Frank Lortie	State Park Historian I
Robert G. Deltzen	Assistant Park and Recreation Specialist
Moralee Arena	Interpretive Specialist

Under the supervision of:

Richard A. May	Chief, Development Division
James P. Irvner	Chief, Resource Preservation and Interpretation Division

H. Lee Warren	Supervising Landscape Architect
Robert M. Acree	Senior Landscape Architect
Norman L. Wilson	Supervisor, Interpretive Services
Paul Neshiff	State Park Historian III
Frederic A. Meyer	Supervisor, Environmental Resources
Frank D. Wyle	State Park and Recreation Specialist

With Special Thanks to:

Robert W. Hewitt	State Park Manager III
William Smith	Member, Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West
Stephen L. Thomas	State Park Resource Ecologist
Jack Hall	Former Area Manager

Final report prepared by George Mathis

Edited by:

Jeff Cohen	Technical Reports Writer
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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 23 - 79
Resolution adopted by the
CALIFORNIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Sacramento
April 20, 1979

WHEREAS the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan for Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park; and

WHEREAS this reflects the long-range development plan as to provide for the optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan for Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, preliminary dated November 1978, subject to the following modifications:

1. In Phase One, major interpretive concerns shall be with Gold Discovery Area.
2. Restoration of Coloma townsite will be Phase II or later.
3. Reconstruction of the 1847-48 mining camp scene should be in Phase I along with Gold Discovery Interpretation.
4. Public money shall not be expended on the relocation of Sutters Mill.
5. Emphasis and support to realignment of Highway 49;

and subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement carrying out the provisions and objectives of said plan.



State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO 95814

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

January 15, 1979

James M. Doyle
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

SUBJECT: SCH #78121140 - MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY S.H.P. GENERAL PLAN

Dear Mr. Doyle:

State agencies have commented on your draft environmental document (see attached). If you would like to discuss the concerns and recommendations in their comments, contact the staff from the agencies whose names and addresses appear on the comments.

You may formally respond to the agencies' comments by writing to them (including the State Clearinghouse number on all such correspondence). When filing the Final EIR, you must include all comments and responses (State EIR Guidelines, Section 15146). State review of your draft environmental document will then be complete.

To aid in preparing environmental assessments on future projects, you should send to state agencies and the Office of Planning and Research your Notice of Preparation as prescribed by AB 884 and Section 15066 of the EIR Guidelines.

If you would care for assistance or if the need arises, the Office of Planning and Research is available to help identify responsible agencies, distribute Notices of Preparation, organize coordination meetings, mediate disputes, and hold consolidated hearings.

Please contact Pam Aronhalt at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen V. Williamson".
Stephen V. Williamson
State Clearinghouse

SVW/nb
Attachment
cc: Ken Fellows, DWR
B. E. Brockett, CalTrans

Memorandum

To : 1. Mr. L. Frank Goodson
Resources Agency

Date: January 11, 1979

2. Mr. James M. Doyle
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

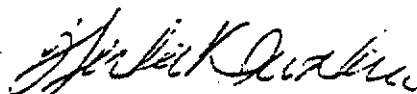
From : STATE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Subject: Sch. # 78121140 - Preliminary General Plan - Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park - El Dorado County

We have reviewed the above general plan and find it lacks current and future solid waste management data. We suggest the general plan contain a section on solid waste to provide the following information:

- 1) A description of the composition and quantity of solid waste material expected to be generated by future expansion and operation of the park.
- 2) A description of collection and solid waste disposal methods to be used.
- 3) A brief discussion of park policies and programs to promote litter reduction.
- 4) A discussion of the feasibility of implementing solid waste recycling programs including a buy back deposit system for beverage containers sold within the park.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your general plan. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Mr. Frank Plesko at (916) 323-0108.



Herbert Iwahiro, Chief
Local Assistance and Planning/
Division

California

Business and Transportation Agency

Memorandum

Mr. Kent Smith
Deputy Division Chief
Division of Transportation Planning

Date: January 5, 1979

File: 03-ED-49
Marshall Gold
Discovery State
Historical Park
SCH # 78121140

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

District 03

District 03 has reviewed the Preliminary General Plan for Marshall Gold Discovery State Historical Park.

If a noise sensitive type of use or development is planned near the State Highway, any desired sound attenuation would be the responsibility of the developer.

The currently proposed five-year State Transportation Improvement Program does not include plans to construct the adopted Route 49 or the "Coloma bypass road."

Furthermore, it does not appear likely that funding for these projects will be available to Caltrans in the near term future.

LEO J. TROMBATORE
District Director of Transportation

B E Brockett
B. E. Brockett
District Transportation Planner
Transportation Planning Branch B

Attach.

SIERRA PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A Joint Powers Agency Consisting of

11572 "B" Avenue
DeWitt Center
Auburn, California 95603
(916) 823-4703

Nevada County
Placer County
Sierra County
El Dorado County

March 8, 1979

James M. Doyle
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Sierra Planning Organization, as the areawide clearinghouse for Sierra, Nevada, Placer and El Dorado Counties, has completed its review of your application to N/A for \$ N/A in funding assistance to implement the Marshall Gold Discovery S.H.P. General Plan project.

At the Sierra Planning Organization policy board meeting of March 7, 1979 the board unanimously voted favorable clearinghouse comment on your application.

As part of its review, the Sierra Planning Organization policy board made the following comments.

See attached letters for various agency/entity comments.

If any comments were received during the review process, they are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Green
District Manager

KEG:cmd

Attached: Executed CA-189

cc: David Keck

EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

2890 MOSQUITO ROAD - P. O. BOX 1047

PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667

Telephone: (916) 622-4513

HARRY J. DUNLOP
Secretary-Manager, Assessor

ROBERT C. BARKER
Collector-Treasurer

Sly Park Unit - Central Valley Project



January 22, 1979

Mr. James M. Doyle
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

With reference to your Marshall Gold Discovery Preliminary General Plan and Draft EI we submit the following information as it relates to the South Fork American River Water Project being planned by the District.

1. The locations of the proposed Coloma Powerhouse and Dam are such that they will not be visible from any point within your proposed development control zone. The location of these facilities as indicated in the Feasibility Report is approximately 7000 feet upstream of your control zone boundary.
2. With regard to the switchyard and transmission towers we would expect to position these to minimize visual impact also.
3. General access to the dam and powerhouse will probably be made via Highway 49 with some modifications to existing roads directly adjacent to the construction sites. It may also be necessary to construct new roads to provide more direct access and to minimize the use of roads used by the general public. Because of the nature of the expected construction activity, impacts on traffic noise levels and air quality may be anticipated.
4. Future recreation plans for the SOFAR water project may affect the activities of the Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. Our environmental consultant is presently developing a recreation plan (Exhibit R) for the lower project area.
5. Since the schedule and capacity factor of the power generating facilities are unknown at this time we cannot estimate the effect of operations on river flow; however, we are familiar with presently required release schedules from Chili Bar Reservoir and believe that release schedules to be imposed on the SOFAR Project may not impact your activities any more than the presently established operational release schedules.
6. Other impacts to the socioeconomic and to the natural environment of the area will be addressed in the license application to be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission prior to June of this year.

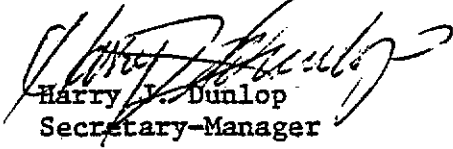
Mr. James M. Doyle
January 22, 1979
Page 2

7. Acquisition of lands within the SOFAR project boundary do not appear to conflict with your Development Control Zone.

Following meetings held on January 4 and 8, 1979, the Boards of EID and the County Water Agency voted to adopt the SOFAR Project as the area encompassing both the upper and lower reaches of the South Fork American River. Application for licenses for each project are to be filed independently. The application for a license to construct the upper portion of the project is to be filed no later than June, 1979, while the application for the lower power portion will be filed prior to January 1, 1980.

The existing water distribution system serving the Marshall Gold Discovery Park area was reviewed in light of your Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR. Utilizing present assumptions on water usage rates, the water system should be capable of supplying the water demand visualized by the Preliminary General Plan.

Very truly yours,



Harry J. Dunlop
Secretary-Manager

HJD:kjh

cc: Sierra Planning Organization
El Dorado County Planning

County of El Dorado

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

N. ARLIENE TODD
WILLIAM V.D. JOHNSON
W.P. WALKER
LLOYD R. KUTTER
THOMAS L. STEWART

CARL A. KELLY

FIRST DISTRICT
SECOND DISTRICT
THIRD DISTRICT
FOURTH DISTRICT
FIFTH DISTRICT

COUNTY CLERK

330 Fair Lane • Placerville, CA 95667
Telephone [916] 626-2464



January 3, 1979

Sierra Planning Organization
11572 B Avenue
DeWitt Center
Auburn, California 95603

Re: AC #78-067 - Comments on the Marshall Gold Discovery
State Park Master Plan and E.I.R.

The Board of Supervisors has reviewed the General Plan and E.I.R. for the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and finds that the document fulfills a great need to plan for the continued development of the most historically significant park in California.

The comments the Board of Supervisors would like to make on the Plan and E.I.R. are:

1. We question the proposal to develop a bypass road crossing the American River.
2. This Board believes that one of the greatest benefits to the park environment would be the relocation of State Route 49 between Placerville and the foot of Marshall Grade on the route adopted by the State. This rerouting of main line traffic from the park corridor would solve much of the traffic problem that exists now and will increase in the future.
3. P. 53 - The realignment of Highway 49 and the park bypass road should be reviewed and adopted by El Dorado County. These routes should then be included in the Regional Transportation Plan.
4. P. 83 - The State Parks Commission is urged to adopt, as a high priority, the acquisition of all lands within the proposed park boundary. El Dorado County will, in the Lotus-Coloma Area Plan,

Page #2

Letter to:

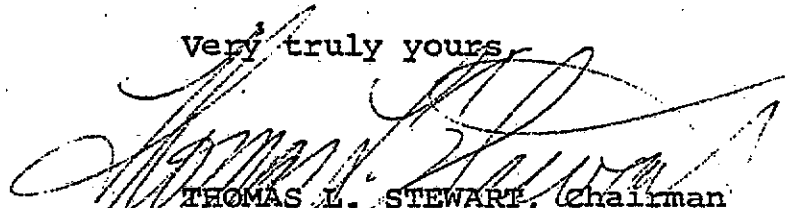
Sierra Planning Organization

January 3, 1979

carefully examine adjacent General Plan and Zoning designations on private lands so that conflicting and potentially disruptive uses will be minimized.

5. P. 84 - The proposed "Development Control Zone" may be difficult to implement. A proposed County Historic Design Ordinance and an appropriate General Plan designation in the Lotus-Coloma Area Plan would be the most viable alternate to this suggestion in the plan.
6. P. 101 - Increased levels of development in the park will attract greater numbers of visitors. The E.I.R. does not discuss these growth inducing impacts adequately. We suggest projections of visitor days, traffic loads, and various public service demands as baseline information, from which an accurate assessment can be made.

Very truly yours,



THOMAS L. STEWART, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

jcb

County of El Dorado

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



360 Fair Lane
Placerville, California 95667
Phone (916) 626-2347

G. ARTHUR CORT
Director of Public Works
Ex Officio
County Engineer — Road Commissioner

December 29, 1978

Sierra Planning Organization
11572 B Avenue
DeWitt Center
Auburn, California 95603

Re: AC #78-067
Marshall Gold Discovery Park

Gentlemen:

I have read the summary of the Environmental Impact Report on subject project. While I don't have any concern regarding the plan to develop the park I do question the proposal to develop a bypass road crossing the American River.

I believe that one of the greatest benefits to the park environment would be the relocation of State Route 49 between Placerville and the foot of Marshall Grade on the route adopted by the State. This rerouting of main line traffic from the park corridor would solve much of the traffic problem that exists now and will increase in the future.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Arthur Cort", is written over a horizontal line.

G. Arthur Cort
Director of Public Works

GAC:vh

Enclosure

Response No. 1

The solid waste collected at the park will be similar in composition to residential. No hazardous chemicals are expected. The waste is picked up by a private concern and disposed at the county dump. Day users generate approximately .07 cubic feet or about two litres per person per day. The average annual visitation of 610,000 between 1972 and 1977; therefore, the unit produces about 43,000 cubic feet or 1200 cubic meters each year.

Visitor use projections are difficult. Annual visitation has varied between 450,000 to 773,000 between 1972 and 1977 with the high in 1976 and the low in 1977; however, this last figure reflects more a change in counting methods than a change in actual attendance. The average rate of increase between 1972 and 1977 is 3.8 percent. Statewide visitation for all the State Park System units has also varied irregularly, but has an annual growth rate of 5 percent which corresponds to the California population growth rate. Assuming past growth rates maintain and the unit's facilities are adequate to meet any projected visitor increase, in 20 years annual visitation could increase to 1,620,000 and solid waste generation to 113,000 cubic feet or 3200 cubic meters.

Title 14, Division 13, Section 4310 of the California Administrative Code prohibits littering in any unit of the State Park System. Division 5, Chapter 1, Section 5008.7 of the Public Resources Code outlines the penalties for littering. Enforcement is the responsibilities of the State Park Rangers in that unit.

It is the unit's responsibility to investigate the feasibility and practicality and to implement any recycling program. Presently, there is no recycling program.

Response No. 2

The Department has not yet seen detailed drawings of the proposed S.O.F.A.R. project; therefore, impacts are difficult to predict.

Response No. 3

Positioning the switchyards, and transmission towers to minimize visual impact does not mean that the impact will be eliminated, negligible, or insignificant.

Response No. 4

As stated in the Environmental Element, page 101 facility capacity has little influence on peak day visitor use. Projections can be made on the basis of past population and visitor use growth rates (See Response No. 1).

The unit provides its own facilities for sewage disposal, and fire suppression in cooperation with the California Division of Forestry. Water is supplied by the El Dorado Irrigation District and they have indicated in their January 22, 1979 comments on the General Plan that their system should be capable of supplying the projected water demand. Traffic estimates for 1977 for State Highway 49 through Coloma are 290 vehicles at peak hour, 1800 vehicles peak month A.D.T., and 1600 vehicles annual A.D.T. traffic level increases will roughly parallel park visitor use increases. Construction of the park by-pass road and the relocation of State Highway 49 will redistribute traffic and reduce congestion.

ADDENDUM

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY STATE HISTORIC PARK PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN

The following changes should be made as an addendum to the preliminary General Plan:

Cover (back side) should read:

With special thanks to Nyron Smith.....Member, Native Sons of the Golden West

Page ix, paragraph five, should read as follows:

This plan also proposed to significantly change visitor circulation through the park. The ultimate development of a bypass road crossing the American River and realignment of Highway 49 will allow automobile traffic to be completely removed from Coloma's main street.

Page 7, paragraph one, should read:

On file with the Cultural Heritage Section of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Page 11, photo caption, should read:

Sutter's Mill replica, reconstructed 1960s.

Page 12, paragraph three:

In the 1960s, local citizens again.....

Page 21, paragraph two, should read:

The most striking deficiency in the unit's cultural resources is the lack of historic structures that can be dated to the prime interpretive period.

Page 24, paragraph three:

The last sentence should read....Acquisition of this area is desirable to protect the quality of the visitor experience of esthetics and history.

Page 34, paragraph three:

The last sentence should read....The survey, which summarized the day use activities, identifies the percentage of visitor participation for each activity. (See Figure 5.)

Page 34, Figure 5, Day Use Activity Summary Chart:

Include within the chart a note indicating....Visitors represented in chart normally participate in more than one activity.

Page 35, paragraph four:

Within the last sentence, in parentheses, should read: (See Figure 6.)

Page 56, Administrative and Maintenance Areas, paragraph three, should read:

For further details of these proposals, refer to Operations Facilities, page 77.

Page 66, paragraph three, should read:

The long-range proposal in this plan is to relocate Sutter's Mill to its historic site. This development includes excavation and removal of remaining mill timbers, relocation of mill, and restoration of mill raceway. This also may include realignment of the river course and stabilization of the river bank.

Page 67, photo:

Remove caption.

Page 70, picture caption, should read:

Sierra Nevada House, built in 1850, potential reconstruction.

Page 73, Table 7:

Potential reconstructions include Bell & Allen Store.
Date of existence, 1854 to present.
Use, general store.

Page 79, Program for Development, Phase 1, first paragraph:

Development in Phase 1 concentrates primarily on reconstruction of the Gold Discovery area and improvements to existing interpretive facilities.

Interpretive Facilities Development

Stabilize the following historic structures:

1. Bell & Allen Store ruins
2. Old Stone Jail ruins

Reconstruct the 1847-1848 mining camp scene and frontier settlement to include:

1. Double log cabin
2. Marshall's first cabin
3. Early mining shelters, such as tents, shanties, lean-to's, others

Develop displays and exhibits of placer mining equipment in Gold Discovery area.

Develop Gold Discovery orientation area to include interpretive panels and orientation displays.

Develop miscellaneous interpretive facilities throughout the park including exhibits, signs, displays, models, etc.

Expand existing displays at Marshall's Monument to include orientation displays and additional interpretive panels.

Initiate a program for vegetation removal and identification of certain cultural and archeological features throughout the park.

Develop approximately 2.5 miles of interpretive and hiking trails.

Page 80, Phase 2, first paragraph should read:

Development in Phase 2 concentrates primarily on removal and relocation of certain park operation facilities.

Interpretive Facilities Development should read:

Develop the Coloma Townsite Orientation Area to include interpretive panels and orientation displays.

Continue development of miscellaneous interpretive and orientation facilities.

Restore the following historic structures:

Bekeart's Gunsmith Shop
Coloma Grays Armory
Weller House

If determined feasible, relocate Sutter's Mill replica to original historic site. This development includes excavation and removal of remaining mill timbers, relocation of mill, and restoration of mill raceway. This also may include realignment of the river course and stabilization of the river bank.

Note: The California State Park and Recreation Commission approves the concept only, and states that "Public money shall not be expended on relocation of Sutter's Mill."

Page 83, first paragraph, should read:

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT CONTINGENT ON CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY 49 REALIGNMENT AND PROPOSED COLOMA BYPASS ROAD.

Page 83, under Operation Facilities Development, second paragraph, should read:

Should the need arise, develop maintenance and service facilities near the American River Orientation Area.

Page 84, paragraph two, should read:

The desirable additions are classified in three categories:

1. Areas of historic significance desirable for interpretation of historic themes.

2. Areas desirable for the preservation of the unit's resources and historic values.
3. Areas desirable for additional state park facilities.

Highest priority is given to those areas that embrace prime historic features and whose acquisition is desirable for the preservation of these features and the interpretation of historic themes.

1. Areas of historic significance desirable for the interpretation of historic themes.

Page 85, Coloma Grange Hall, first paragraph, should read:

This privately owned building, built in 1926, is located in the center of the park's historic area and occupies the site of Coloma's earliest commercial development in 1849. The large number of cars during Grange activities poses problems to the park's operation and creates a hazardous traffic situation along Highway 49.

The Coloma Grange continues to function as a meeting place for its members during evening and weekend activities. The structure itself is not historically significant to the park's interpretive themes, and may become an obstacle to the ultimate interpretation of the 1847-49 historic scene proposed for this area. Parking is presently inadequate for Grange activities and demands are expected to increase. The site limitations do not allow for expansion of parking facilities. Also, changes in vehicular circulation proposed by the plan will eliminate all parking and vehicular access to this area.

Ongoing Grange activities will continue to require more and better facilities to accommodate their future needs.

Acquisition of this property is desirable to achieve the long-range objectives of this plan, and meet the department's responsibility to protect the unit's resources and historic values. From either point of view, both Grange and park activities do not appear to be compatible with the desired goals of either organization. However, the human values and necessary services and activity which the Grange provides should be considered. Until such time this property could be acquired, the Grange and the department should coordinate their activities and planning efforts to assure that the area's resources and historic values are not further jeopardized.

Page 86, paragraph three, should read:

These additions are desirable for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of these valuable historic resources and for more adequate buffer to urban development than currently exists along Monument and Cold Springs Road.

2. Areas desirable for the preservation of the unit's resources and historic values.

Fourth paragraph:

These additions include land next to historic structures under state park ownership, and land desirable for establishing a more adequate buffer from urban development occurring on nearby private lands.

ALL MAPS SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

"The provision of facilities indicated on lands not presently owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation is contingent on state acquisition of those lands. Land uses shown represent potential opportunities based on available data. Additional investigations will be initiated if and when acquisition is completed, and alternative land uses may be indicated or necessitated by further study."

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY S.H.P.

General Plan

NOVEMBER 1978

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Huey D. Johnson
Secretary for Resources

Russell W. Cahill
Director



State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

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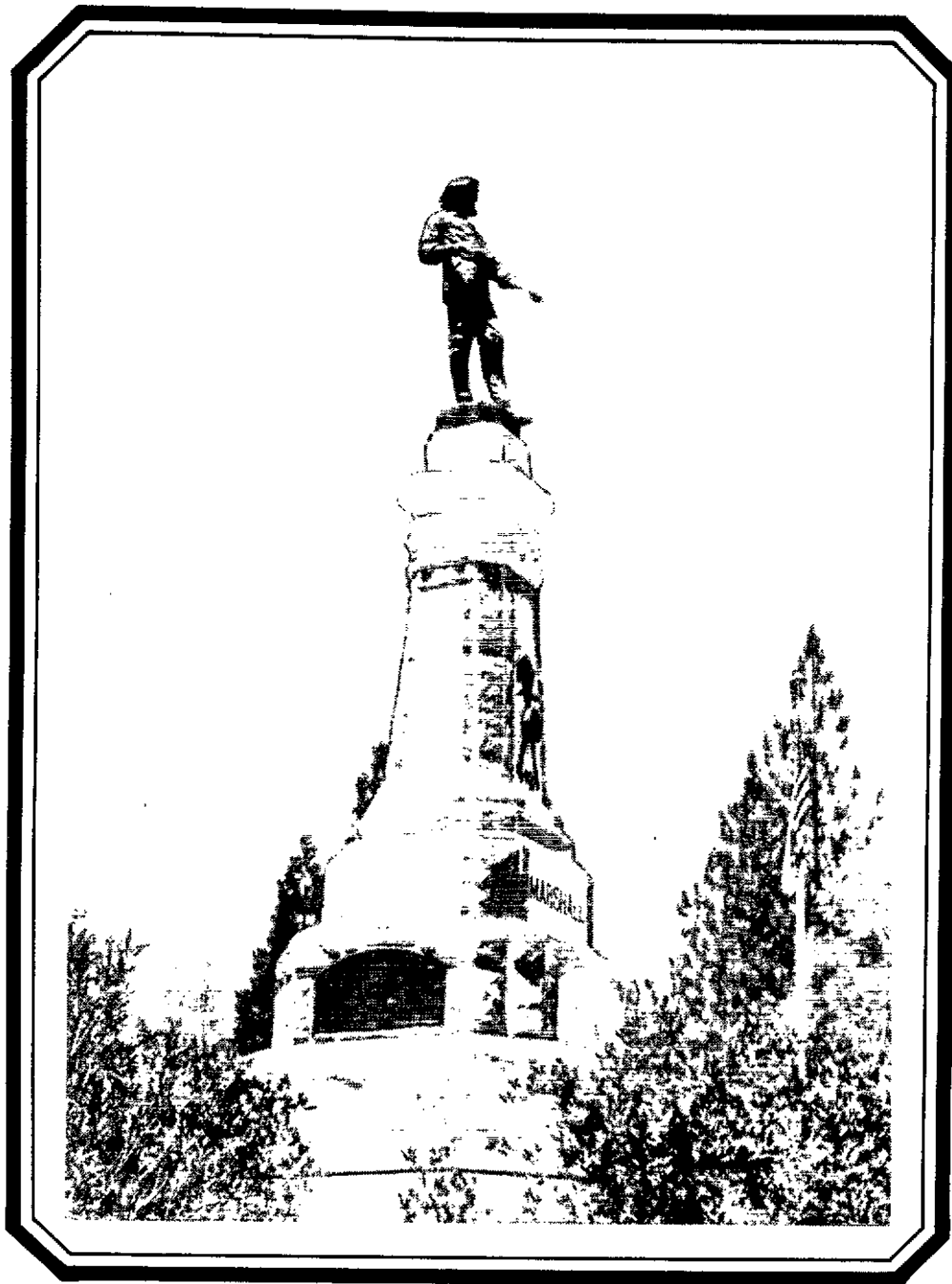
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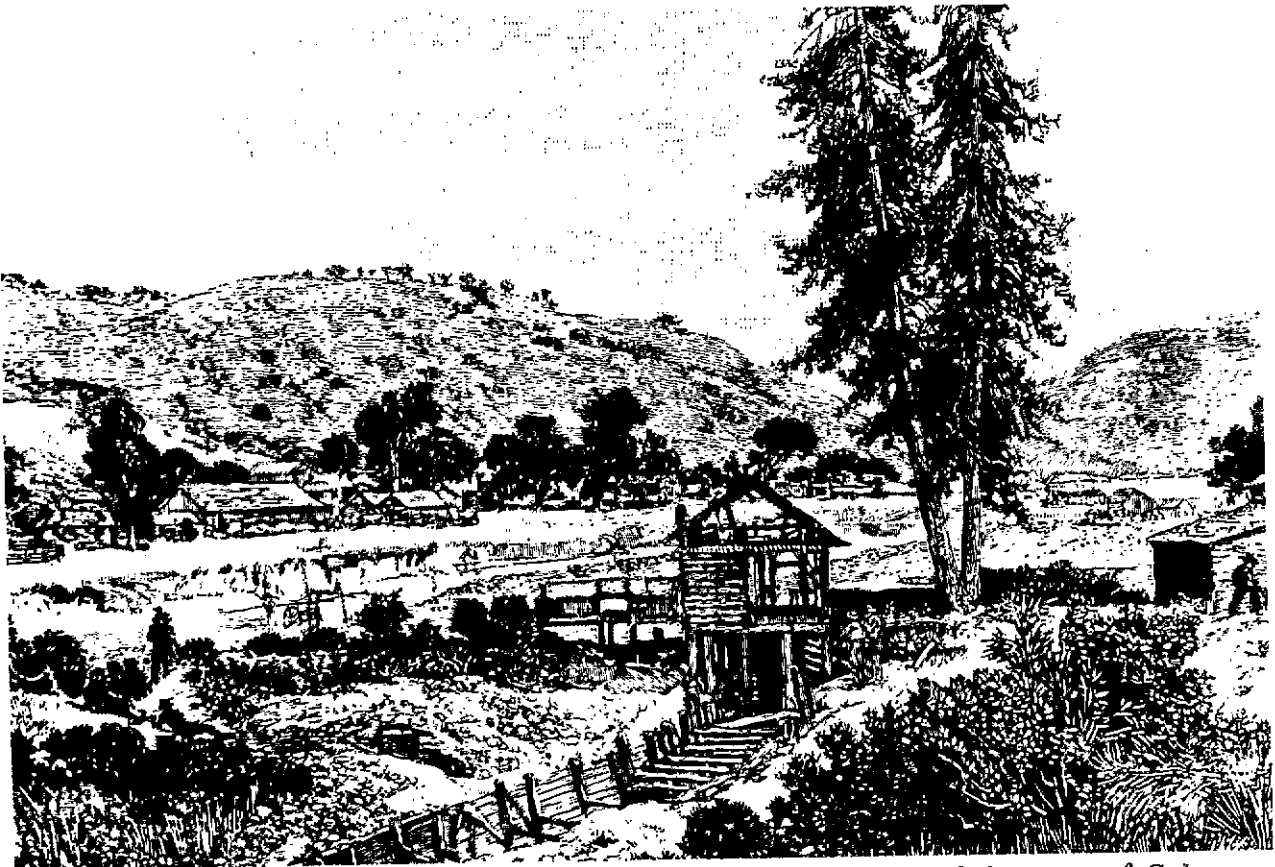
"Boys, I believe I have found a gold mine."

Those were the words of James W. Marshall on January 24, 1848. Marshall found the gold in the tailrace of John Sutter's sawmill on the American River near Coloma. The discovery that fired imaginations the world over and led to the establishment of the State of California makes this location one of the most significant historic sites in the nation.

Summary

The great gold rush beginning in 1849 is known worldwide for its effects on the early development of California and the nation. Within a few years following James Marshall's discovery near Sutter's Mill, California quickly grew into one of the most significant states in the Union. The historical significance of this site was recognized when it became part of the State Park System in 1942.

The town of Coloma, which grew up around Sutter's Mill, is a place of historic "firsts." The sawmill was the first in the interior of California. The gold discovery was the first significant one in California. Coloma was the first frontier settlement in the Sierra Nevada foothills and became a distributing center from which trails radiated to other gold camps that blossomed north, east, south, and west. The gold rocker was first introduced in Coloma in 1848 by Georgia miner Isaac Humphrey. The first mining ditch was built here in 1850. Beginning with a few log cabins in 1848, Coloma became the first county seat of El Dorado County in 1850.



Sutter's sawmill showing the tailrace where gold was discovered and the town of Coloma

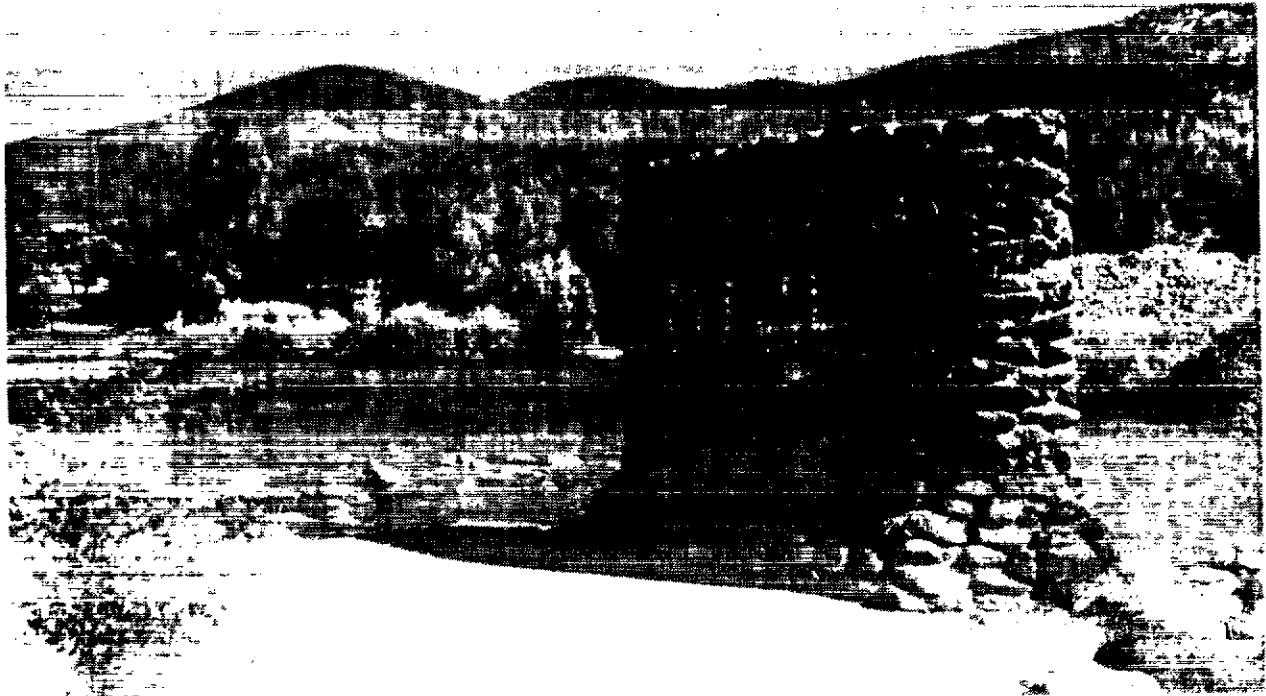
Since August 1942, when a small piece of property near Sutter's Mill was purchased by the State of California to preserve the gold discovery site, surrounding land has gradually been added, piece by piece due to funding limitations. This piecemeal process of expanding the park has led to the construction of certain facilities, such as parking, maintenance buildings, and the museum, in less-than-desirable locations. Subsequent acquisition has resulted in the purchase of more suitable locations for certain park facilities.

Why is a General Plan necessary? Although planning studies have been previously prepared, this General Plan is a response to the need for guidelines for future park management and development.

At present the park is not what it should be to adequately tell the gold discovery story. There are several reasons for this. Unlike other state gold mining parks, such as Columbia, Empire Mine, Bodie, or Malakoff Diggins, this park has few physical remnants that help explain its significance and its effect on the social and economic framework of the Mother Lode. None of the mining camp structures are still standing and few of the original Coloma townsite buildings remain. Because gold in the Coloma area was found by using the placer technique along rivers, the large mining structures or tunnels found in a hard rock mine or the vast wastelands caused by hydraulic mining cannot be depicted. Instead, we must concentrate on depicting the scene that surrounded James Marshall at the time of his discovery and shortly after - a frontier settlement of a few tents and miners' shelters, Sutter's Mill, a budding Coloma townsite, and the beautiful American River - all set within a peaceful foothill valley.



Typical placer mining scene



Original site of Sutter's mill

The increasing demands of visitation have introduced another familiar problem - the automobile. Hundreds of cars frequently park along the highway where it passes through the quiet Coloma community. This is both dangerous and unsightly, detracting from the historic scene.

The intertwining of state and private ownership has also resulted in a park that is often difficult for visitors to comprehend. Many visitors are confused by the nondescript boundaries and the mixture of park and private activity. These problems are compounded by the inadequate location of certain park facilities.

How will this General Plan improve the park? By giving the park a greater sense of historic identity. Every attempt will be made to return the property to the way it appeared between 1847 and 1852. This period is chosen to emphasize the event of the gold discovery and its subsequent effect on the early Coloma townsite. The intention is not to rebuild the gold rush town of Coloma, thereby duplicating the state park efforts at Columbia SHP.

This plan proposes to recreate the early historic setting by moving the reconstructed Sutter's Mill to its original location and rebuilding the nearby mining camp scene. A limited reconstruction program will develop several of the key historic buildings which existed along Main Street in the 1847-1852 period. Due to the heavy visitation in the historic area, some picnic facilities will be relocated to other areas near the American River. No overnight facilities will be developed.

This plan also proposes to significantly change visitor circulation through the park. The ultimate development of a bypass road crossing the American River will allow automobile traffic to be removed from Main Street. Four orientation areas will be developed on the perimeter of the park along the various access roads into Coloma. They will offer an improved orientation of visitors to a particular interpretive area as well as give a general park overview. Modern intrusions in the park will be relocated so they will be screened from the historic area.

The main recommendations of the plan are:

1. Preserve and protect the park's cultural and natural features.
2. Implement the facility changes listed in Table 1, within existing park ownership in harmony with the proposed development guidelines.

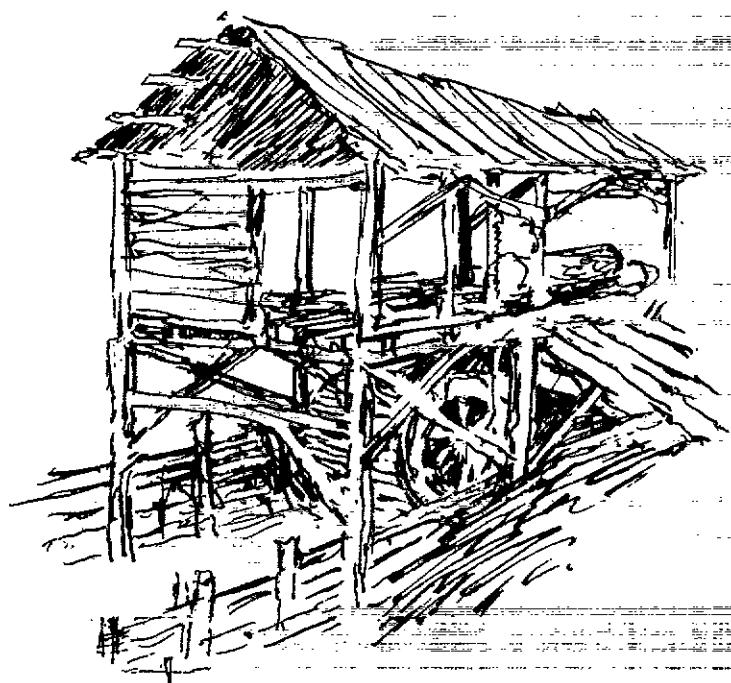
Table 1
Proposed Facility Changes

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| a. | Historic stabilization | 2 structures |
| b. | Historic restoration | 3 structures |
| c. | Gold discovery area reconstruction | 2 structures, miscellaneous shelters |
| d. | Coloma townsite reconstruction | 6 structures (approximately) |
| e. | Sutter's Mill relocation to original site | 1 structure |
| f. | Building removal | 3 structures |
| g. | Miscellaneous interpretive exhibits, signs, displays, models, etc. | — |
| h. | Orientation areas to include interpretive panels and orientation displays | 3 areas |
| i. | Parking lot removal | 2 areas |
| j. | Parking lot construction | 2 areas |
| k. | Picnic facility relocation | 1 area |
| l. | Interpretive and hiking trails | 3 miles |
3. Identify and reserve areas in which the following developments could be made should the need arise:
 - a. Maintenance and service area (1 area)
 - b. Picnic area (1 area)
 4. Identify development contingent upon the construction of a proposed Coloma bypass road:
 - a. Orientation area to include interpretive panels and orientation displays (1 area)
 - b. Historic reconstruction (2 structures)
 - c. Coloma Main Street restoration
 - d. Parking lot (1 area)
 - e. Picnic area (1 area)



INTRODUCTION





INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF PLAN

The purpose of the General Plan is to provide general guidelines for the management and development of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, in accordance with its classification and approved Declaration of Purpose.

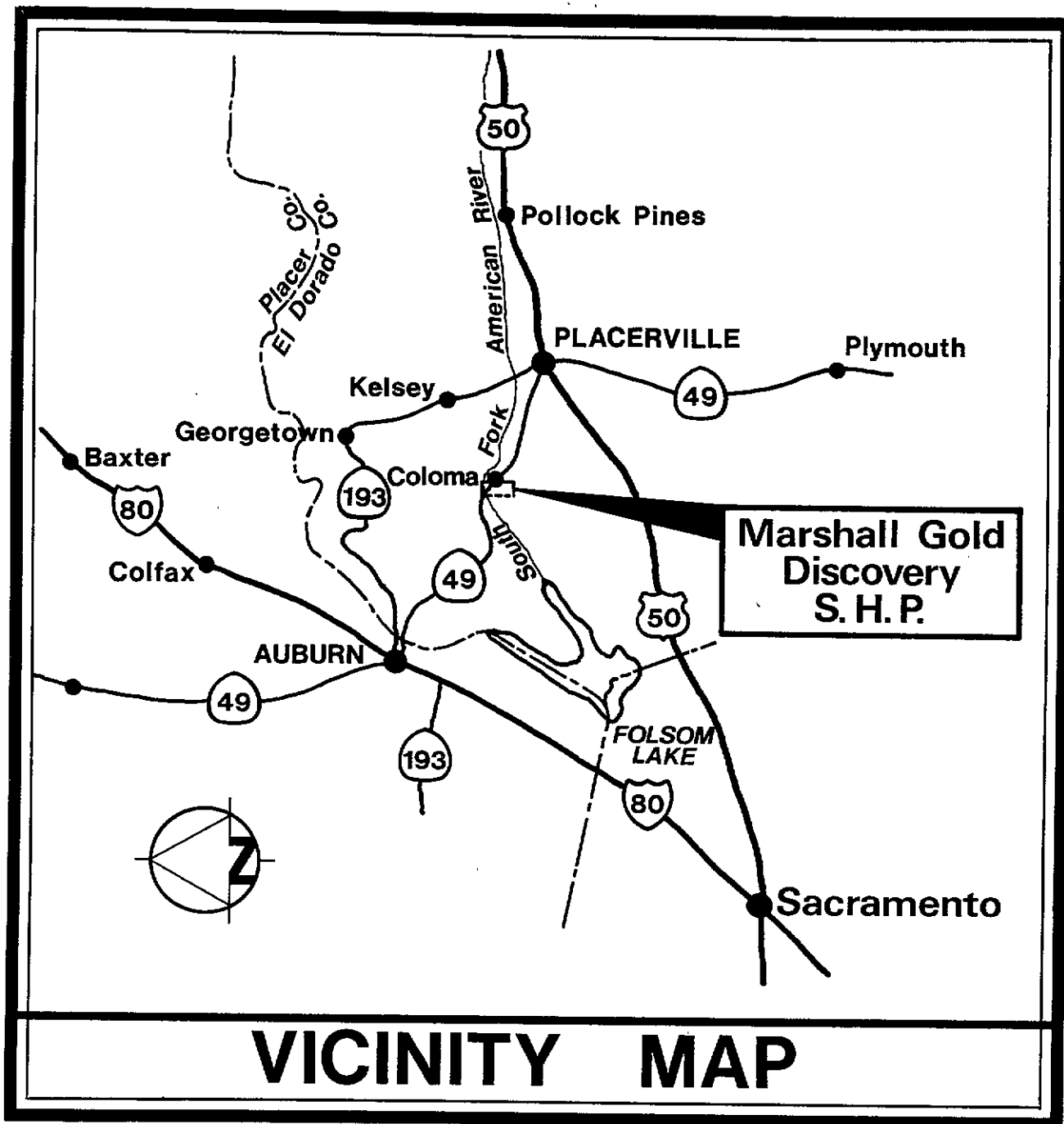
The site of the sawmill and gold discovery was acquired by the state in August 1942. Subsequent land acquisition has resulted in joining the James W. Marshall State Historical Monument to the Gold Discovery Site State Park. In 1962 the State Park and Recreation Commission classified and named the unit Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared several planning surveys for the park since its acquisition. This plan is the first for this unit in response to the mandate of the Public Resources Code. This law requires that a General Plan be submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission for its approval. In addition, this report includes an environmental impact element, conforming to requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The policies presented in this plan are intended as general guidelines with some flexibility so they can be modified if new information makes modification advisable. A time period of 20 years is used as a basis for all projections of visitation and development in the park.

The specific goals and objectives of this plan are to:

1. Identify and evaluate the unit's cultural, natural, and recreational resources.
2. Establish policies for the management, protection, and interpretation of these resources.
3. Determine visitor activities and land uses that are compatible with the purpose of the park, the available resources, and the surrounding area.
4. Determine the potential environmental impact of visitor activities, land use, and related development.
5. Establish guidelines for the sequence of park development.
6. Identify lands outside existing park boundaries that would be valuable additions to the unit.
7. Provide an informational document for the public, the legislature, park personnel, and other government agencies.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Marshall Gold Discovery SHP is about 65 km (40 mi.) northeast of Sacramento and 11 km (7 mi.) north of Placerville. The park is in a valley where the South Fork of the American River flows northerly. Part of the town of Coloma is in the unit. Highway 49, connecting Placerville and Auburn, runs north-south through the park, providing a principal access for visitors. Green Valley Road from Folsom and the road from the Shingle Springs turn-off from Highway 50 are two other routes to the unit.

Most of the unit is at elevations between 215 and 230 m (700 to 750 ft.) above sea level. The James Marshall Monument is on a hill south of the river about 335 m (970 ft.) above sea level. The current area of the unit is about 97 hectares (240 acres) and includes land on both sides of the river and part of the hillside to the west.

A wide range of cultural resources, representing the history of the Coloma region, is located in the park. Some of the major visitor attractions are the full-size replica of Sutter's mill, the original mill location, and gold discovery site. There are no visible remains of the original sawmill, since the site has long been covered with river gravel and the cold waters of the South Fork of the American River. A few original mill timbers were uncovered in 1947 and are now displayed near the replica of Sutter's mill.

Little evidence of the original Coloma business district remains. Located next to the reconstructed sawmill, this area was extensively modified by mining activities and flooding, and now contains a parking lot, a relocated log cabin, and several exhibits. Two stone buildings, known as the Chinese stores, are immediately west of Main Street. Built around 1860, they served as stores for many years and were among the few Chinese establishments to survive a disastrous fire in 1880.

During the late 1840s, the commercial and residential center of Coloma was concentrated north of lower Main Street, along now-obscured Sutter Street. This street branched diagonally off Main Street toward the river; the original location of Sutter's sawmill was near it. This area is just to the west of the south end of the existing bridge. By the early 1850s, however, spring flooding had demonstrated the unsuitability of this location and the commercial center of the community shifted to the upper (eastern) three blocks of Main Street.



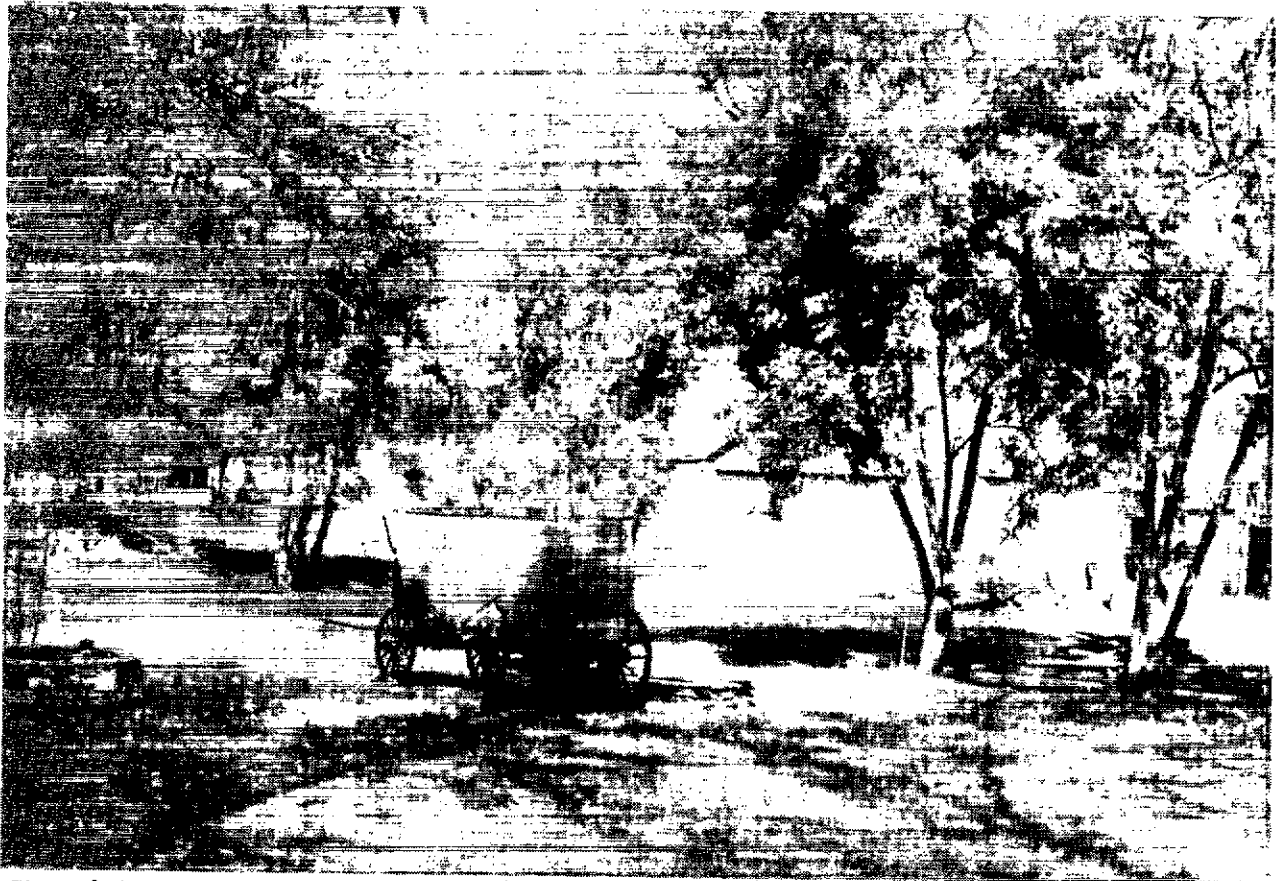
Coloma, street view, 1850s

By 1855 the major commercial district was located along the north and south sides of upper Main Street. Like many gold rush towns, Coloma had quickly become crowded with primarily wooden structures as the town grew to a population of several thousand. The years have taken their toll, however, and only ten major structures remain standing along Main Street. Of these, four date to the 1850s - the Coloma Grays Armory, Bekeart's Gunsmith Shop, the Bell and Allen Ruin, and the Weller House. The remaining six buildings were constructed in the twentieth century.

A network of streets and lanes south of Main Street gives access to scattered residences, orchards, agricultural terraces, and fields. The major remaining nineteenth-century buildings include the Odd Fellows Hall, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, St. John's Catholic Church and cemetery, the ruins of the original El Dorado County Jail, James Marshall's Cabin (restored), the Marshall Monument, and three additional residences and associated outbuildings.

Several twentieth-century buildings in the area are currently used by park operations staff for residences, storage, and park headquarters. The Gold Discovery Museum, located south of Back Street, helps visitors understand the significance of Marshall's discovery through mining artifacts, exhibits, and film presentations. It was built in 1961.

In addition to these buildings, other historic features are represented by archeological resources. Some foundations, retaining walls, and wells indicate the location of the Sierra Nevada House, Wells Fargo Express Company, Weller's Hardware Store, and the Baker Hotel. Other significant cultural resources in the park include stone retaining



Site of the Sierra Nevada House



Aerial view of Coloma

walls supporting agricultural terraces, irrigation ditches, and the remnants of orchards and vineyards. Several excavations along the southern ridgetop represent small-scale mining activities that may have occurred in the 1920s and 1930s. These and other archeological features are discussed at greater length in the document entitled "An Inventory of the Cultural Resources of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park" on file with the Natural Heritage Section of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Although no historic buildings remain on the north side of the river, this area once had three hotels, a stable, several stores, residences, and orchards. Access to this area, known as Pleasant Flat, was by a series of bridges which were periodically destroyed by the flooding that plagued the community.

The park's historical features are enhanced by a natural setting formed by the scenic canyon of the South Fork of the American River. Originating near Echo Lake at the crest of the Sierra Nevada, this river is bordered at Coloma by open grasslands with scattered specimens of cottonwoods, willows, blue oak, and interior live oak. Many of the trees throughout the park were planted by miners who had brought seeds from all parts of the world. The tree-of-heaven, from China, and black locust, from the eastern United States, are the predominant exotic species.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first residents of the Coloma Valley were probably the group of Southern Maidu called the Nisenan. These people were sedentary and their village was located somewhere on the valley floor. Their food economy was based primarily on the gathering and processing (using bedrock mortars and metates) of acorns and grass seeds, but the hunting of deer, rabbit, and other mammals, and fishing were important supplements to this. First contact with Euroamericans evidently was with trappers and pioneer settlers who came to the Sierra Nevada in the 1830s and 1840s. When John Sutter and James Marshall selected Coloma for the site for their sawmill, the Nisenan offered no resistance and little interference.

Once the gold rush was underway, the Nisenan way of life became seriously threatened. The influx of argonauts drove off game animals and the streams and rivers were made uninhabitable for fish. American miners massacred a score or more of Nisenan in 1849, and in the early 1850s oak trees in the region failed to produce acorns. Poor diet, disease, violence, and alcoholism took a heavy toll among the Nisenan. What eventually became of them is not known.

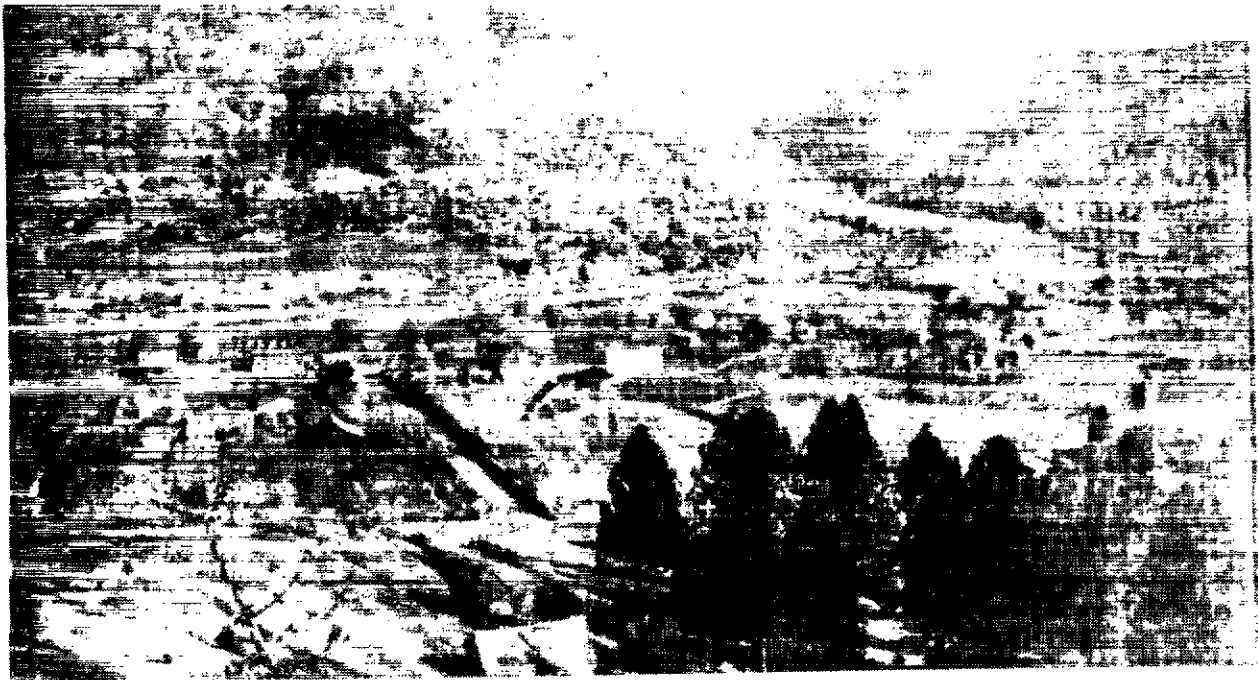
During the fall of 1847, James Marshall and a crew of white and Indian workers from Sutter's Fort began work on a sawmill on the South Fork of the American River. In January 1848, Marshall found some flakes of gold while inspecting the mill's tailrace. He informed his employer, John Sutter, of his discovery and both tried to keep it a secret. But by spring the news was spreading and men started to drift into the area. At this time, Coloma was not much more than a frontier settlement with a few log houses. The new arrivals had to live in tents and brush dwellings. In the summer of 1848, the military and civilian governor of California, Colonel Mason, toured the gold fields and confirmed the riches that were to be found there. When his report arrived in Washington, D.C., that fall, the news received national attention. 1849 was the first year of the great rush to California.



*James Marshall,
the discoverer of gold*



Sutter's mill

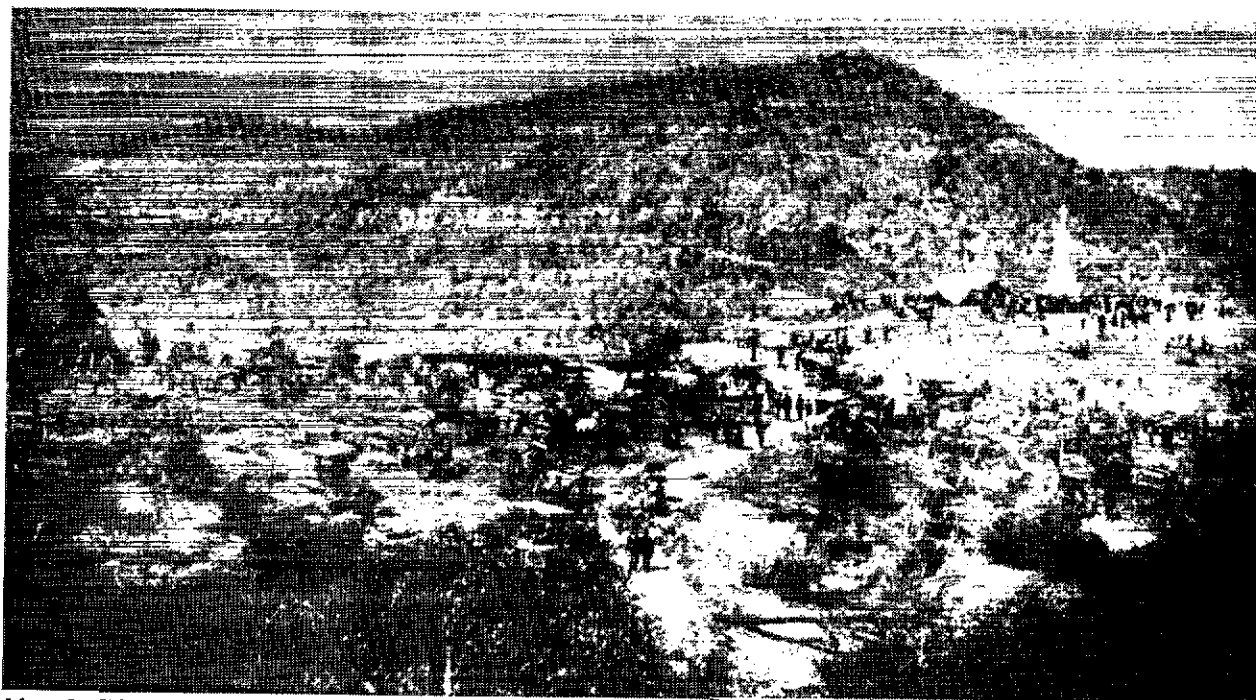


Early photograph showing Coloma's fruit orchards and vineyards.

Until late 1849, Coloma was still a frontier village. Conditions were primitive and prices exorbitant. Gradually more permanent structures were constructed on both sides of the river and supplies became more abundant. In 1850, the town was surveyed, Main Street was laid out, and Coloma was designated the county seat. Through the first part of the 1850s the town grew rapidly. Main Street was crowded with stores, hotels, gambling halls, restaurants, saloons, and other facilities for the recreation and sustenance of the miners. A large Chinatown grew up around the site where the sawmill had been. People from all over the nation and the world crowded the streets. Coloma became the commercial and entertainment center for all the smaller mining camps that were scattered in the region's hills and ravines.

The great majority of the gold around Coloma was in the form of placer deposits, so simple mining techniques of pick, shovel, flat-bottom pan, and "rocker" enabled individuals to work a claim with some success. After the early 1850s, the surface gold had all been mined and larger investments, better organization, and more sophisticated equipment were required to make gold mining profitable. Miners in Coloma used some of these methods, but by the late 1850s richer mines had been found elsewhere in the county that were much better suited for this new technology. Coloma's future was clouded, and the relocation of the county seat from there to Placerville reflected its decline.

Coloma was not ready for ghost town status yet. Her fruit orchards, vineyards, and winery kept her economy viable from 1860 to the turn of the century. The terrain, climate, and system of ditches and canals (originally built for gold mining) were ideal for this type of agriculture. The rows of trees and grape vines on the valley floor and up the terraced hillsides made Coloma look like a well-manicured garden, and the fruit from here was winning wide acclaim. A winery called the Coloma Vineyard was one of the largest and most modern in the state. An attack of insects, pests, and increased competition from other, more productive areas of the state put a great deal of pressure on Coloma's fruit growers and wineries. By the early part of the twentieth century, the town's wine industry was abandoned, and its fruit farming was reduced.



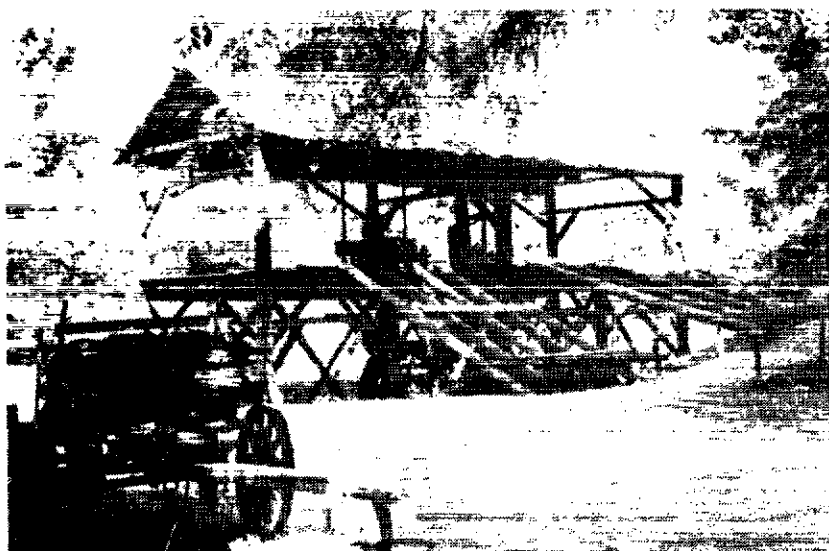
Marshall's Monument dedication in 1890

Main Street deteriorated steadily from 1860. As "downtown" business declined, buildings were abandoned, and were torn down or destroyed by fire. By 1900, there were no more than a dozen structures there, the Sierra Nevada Hotel the most prominent among them. Coloma was adjusting to the transformation of its economy from mining to agriculture. The hotels, restaurants, and saloons essential for the mining town of the 1850s made way for blacksmith shops and general stores of the farming village of the late 1800s. Coloma had become a quiet rural community by 1900.

Coloma's historic significance was first publicly recognized in May 1890 when the James Marshall Monument was dedicated (State Historic Landmark #143). Between that time and the mid-1920s no further development of the historic theme was undertaken. However, in September 1924, the South Fork was unusually low and what appeared to be parts of the foundation of the sawmill were exposed. Jules F. Bekeart's grandson, Philip Bekeart, organized an excavation of the area in hopes of firmly establishing the exact location of the mill. This was accomplished (one of the original saw blades was also discovered) and in 1942 the site was designated State Historic Landmark #530.



Original site of Sutter's mill



*Sutter's mill replica,
reconstructed 1968*



Early drawing of Coloma showing Sutter's mill

In 1947, the river was again low and another excavation was undertaken. Preparations of the centennial celebration of the gold discovery heightened interest in this project. A team of archeologists from the University of California's Department of Anthropology and representatives of the National Park Service uncovered some of the foundation timbers and many artifacts.

In 1948, the centennial was honored with much more fanfare. Seventy thousand people descended on Coloma to participate. Special displays of old mining techniques were put up, there was a long parade, speeches were made, and a pageant was performed dramatizing Marshall's discovery. Coloma had not seen so much activity for almost one hundred years.

In 1962, the site of Marshall's discovery and much of the townsite of Coloma was classified a historic unit of the California State Park System.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Native Sons of the Golden West dedicated the Marshall Monument in 1890. This commemoration of James Marshall and the gold discovery developed a public interest and local support that has survived since the turn of the century to the present.

In 1924 the residents of Coloma excavated the mill timbers, identifying the exact sawmill site and the gold discovery location. Following that discovery the State of California acquired the initial property and made it a State Historical Landmark.

In the early 1960s local citizens again promoted public interest through the reconstruction of the sawmill replica with donated labor and material.

A citizens advisory committee was established in 1968 by the Department of Parks and Recreation to assist in planning and operational decisions for this unit. It contributed local ideas to planning and acquisition proposals until 1974.

It was recognized at the start of the general plan process that there was a need to gather and evaluate opinions and concerns from the rest of the state as well as locally. A questionnaire was mailed to a statewide mailing list and a public meeting was held locally to hear local opinions. Appendix A is a summary of the public involvement activity.

This public participation was used to develop four alternative plans which were mailed to statewide interests and presented at a local workshop.

Additional meetings were held with a local citizens group to further evaluate public comments and develop a single plan recommendation.

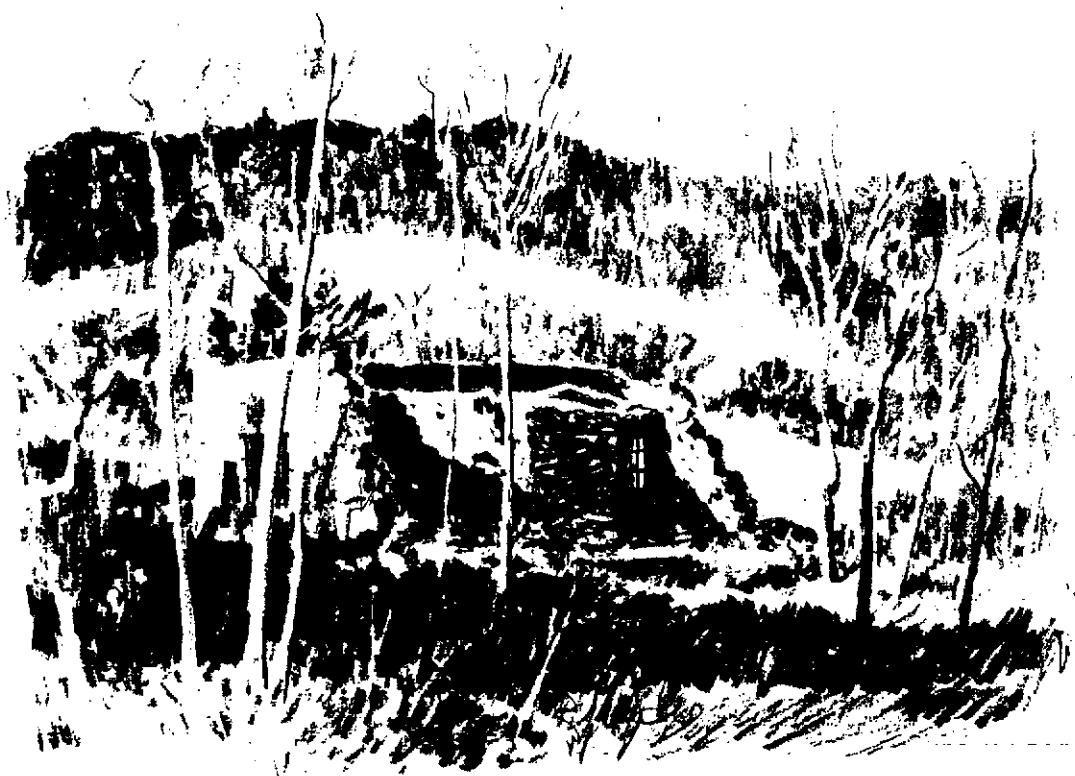
The final plan presented in this report will not necessarily provide for all the desires and concerns expressed by all the general public. It attempts to develop solutions that incorporate facilities compatible with the natural and cultural values of the unit.

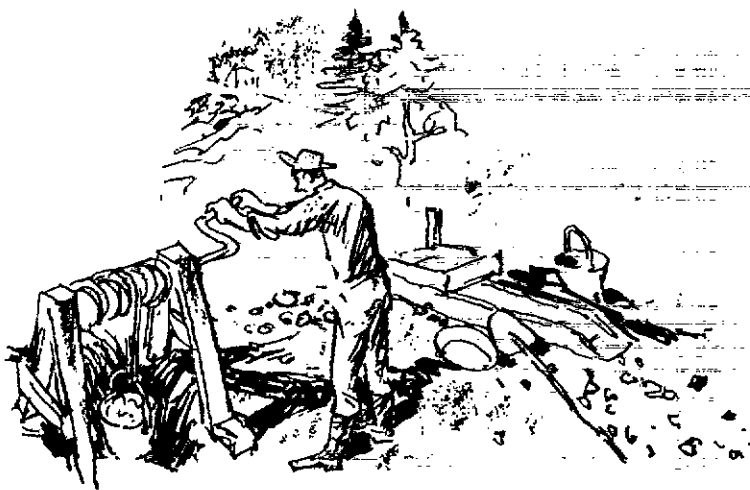


Park planners hold a public meeting to hear local opinions and concerns for the future of the park.



RESOURCE ELEMENT





RESOURCE ELEMENT

RESOURCE SUMMARY AND EVALUATION

The purpose of this section is to evaluate the cultural and natural resources of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP in order to protect significant resources from being endangered by park visitation and development. The following resource descriptions predict the possible effects of development by identifying environmentally sensitive areas. These areas are shown on the resource maps located in Appendix B.

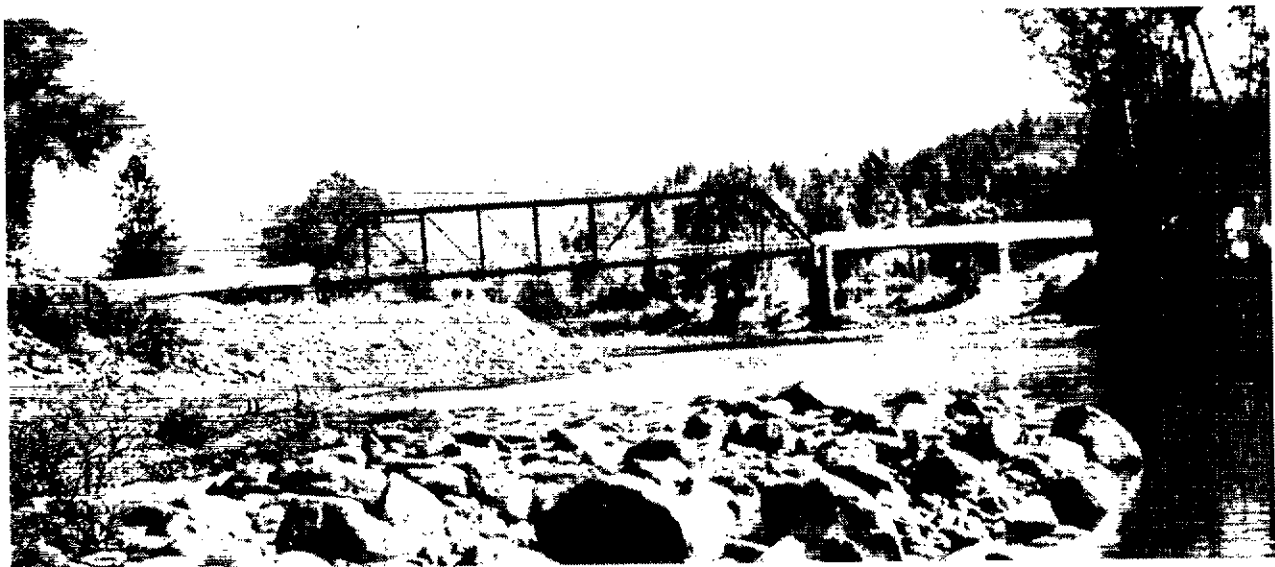
Natural Values

The natural setting of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP is the canyon of the South Fork of the American River and wooded slopes consisting of chaparral, foothill woodland, and small elements of coniferous forest. This scenery does not have great value in itself, either geologically, botanically, or ecologically. But it is of interest and important because it is the historic setting of the actual gold discovery. For that reason it should be preserved in a condition as nearly historic as possible, with a minimum of modern intrusions and modifications.

Topography and Hydrology

Marshall Gold Discovery SHP is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, in a fertile valley surrounded by rolling hills. The elevation varies from 215 m (700 ft.) at the river to 392 m (1,276 ft.) at the highest point.

The primary water feature of the park is the South Fork of the American River. Over the years the course of this river channel has changed many times due to the gradual erosion of its banks. Although four major storms have occurred in the last 25 years, recent dredgings of the river seem to have alleviated the threat of flooding in the near future.



Coloma Bridge on the American River

The flow of the American River through the park fluctuates drastically from day to day. Controlled by the Chili Bar Reservoir several miles upstream, the mean daily flow in summer is about 100 cubic feet per second (cfs). However, frequent releases from the reservoir due to power demands result in flows that are typically 1,000 to 2,000 cfs. This change in flow rate often occurs during mid-day hours and can be dangerous to swimmers, particularly in the spring when water temperatures are low.

The map depicting topography and hydrology (see Appendix B) identifies broad areas with greater than 20 percent slopes that are generally unsuitable for park development. It also delineates a flood hazard zone which generally describes the flooded area during the past four major storms.

Vegetation

The native vegetation is dominated by those species commonly found in the Foothill Woodland Vegetative Association. Along the American River, grasslands are covered with cottonwoods, willows, interior live oak, and digger pine. On the cooler northward- and eastward-facing slopes at the higher elevations, there is a considerable occurrence of plants common to the Ponderosa pine forest. Ponderosa pine, incense-cedar, Douglas-fir, and California black oak stand among a dense mixture of toyons, manzanita, coffeeberry, and poison oak.

Throughout most of the Sierra Nevada foothills the lower edge of the main timber belt has been pushed eastward and higher through both exploitation and fires. This appears to be the case at Coloma. The fact that Captain John Sutter had a sawmill built at this site indicates in all probability there was more forest land in the area in the 1840s than there is today. Evidence of the tremendous impact the miners had on the environment can still be seen by the variety of introduced plants such as tree-of-heaven, black locust, and various fruit trees.

The vegetation map (see Appendix B) identifies two types of trees that are particularly sensitive and significant and should be protected: (1) landmark trees, primarily elms and locusts, which are shown on early historic maps and give the Coloma business district a separate identity; and (2) mature oak groves, mainly blue oaks, located in the natural area west of Highway 49 and near the gold discovery site.

No rare and endangered plants have been discovered at Marshall Gold SHP.



*Vegetation
surrounding
Marshall Gold
Discovery S.H.P.*



Coloma, viewed from Mt. Murphy to the east.

Soils

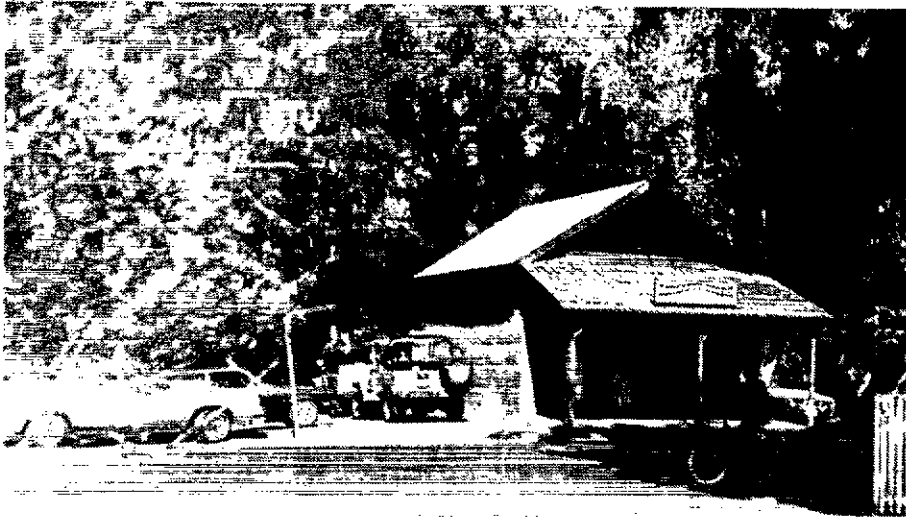
El Dorado County soils have been classified by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service by soil series and phases. A soil series consists of soils similar in basic profile characteristics and named after a town or other geographic feature near the site where the series was first observed. Each series is composed of soil phases based on variations in surface layer, slope, stoniness, and other characteristics.

The soils map (see Appendix B) identifies sensitive areas as those on slopes of greater than 30 percent. High visitation or development in these areas could result in severe soil erosion.

More than 75 percent of the park consists of well-drained soils belonging to the Auberry series. These soils are found on gently sloping foothills ranging from 5 to 50 percent. Soil depths range from 3 to 5 feet, underlain by weathered granitic rock. Vegetation is mainly annual grasses, forbs, oaks, and scattered ponderosa and digger pines.

The soils located throughout the natural area on slopes greater than 30 percent pose a high erosion hazard where surface runoff is moderate to rapid. Remains of orchard terracing and irrigation ditches occur in this area, providing some means of soil stabilization and retention of surface runoff. Native vegetation and the absence of development afford the greatest protection against soil erosion in this area.

Other soil types in the park include Placer Diggins (PrD), a mixture of various soil types left by placer mining and flooding in the area, and Mixed Alluvial land (MpB), composed of small areas of recent mixed alluvium next to the river. More recently the areas along the river were disturbed by gravel and dredging operations. This soil type is also identified in the area known as Pleasant Flat, a predominantly open grassland that was once orchards.



Modern intrusions, including the automobile, detract from the rural atmosphere of the park

Visual Quality

Despite the mass immigration of gold seekers to Coloma in the late 1840s, the area has retained a picturesque rural setting. Like most of the gold rush communities, the town is no longer a densely populated center of commercial activity. Instead, it has gradually become a peaceful agricultural hamlet surrounded by orchards, grazing fields, and single-family homes.

Although the landscape has undergone little change, the Coloma area today bears little resemblance to the scene in gold rush days. There are numerous modern intrusions in the park or visible from it, including modern residences, roads, power lines, and - perhaps greatest of all - the automobile. On most summer weekends, the rural atmosphere of the park is drastically transformed into an urban-like one, largely because of traffic congestion and high visitation.

The visual quality map (see Appendix B) identifies those natural and human-produced features that affect the quality of the visitors' visual experience. The scenic landscapes, shown by the shaded portions of the map, are particularly significant and should be protected from modern development. These consist of picturesque property along both sides of the American River and healthy stands of mature oaks west of Highway 49. Impressive views from various spots throughout the park are also described.

Features that are visual intrusions on the historic scene, and are shown on the map, include modern buildings, parking areas, and picnic facilities.

Wildlife

The wildlife in the Coloma area was certainly more diverse in the early gold rush era than it is today. Most large mammals have moved to more remote areas mostly because of expanding development. However, the California mule deer, coyote, raccoon, and striped skunk can sometimes be seen.

Although there may be occasional visits by bald eagles or peregrine falcons, no rare and endangered wildlife is known to inhabit the area.

Geology

Coloma lies in the lower or western part of the Sierra Nevada Geomorphic Province, and virtually typifies the "Mother Lode region," or gold-bearing, zone of the Sierra foothills. The original discovery of gold in 1848 took place, as might be expected, not in ancient geologic deposits or underground veins, but in recent alluvial deposits brought down by the modern river through erosion of the deeper sources where gold was deposited by previous geological processes.

The geological formation along this part of the American River Canyon consists of granitic rocks of Mesozoic age, largely granodiorite. But the gold discovery and feverish activity that followed it affected only the alluvial deposits along the river course itself rather than the basic geologic features, as in some other historic units where later-day mining activities took place.

We are not aware of any paleontological values or any fossil forms of plant or animal life occurring in this area. The geologic formations suggest that such occurrences would hardly be likely.

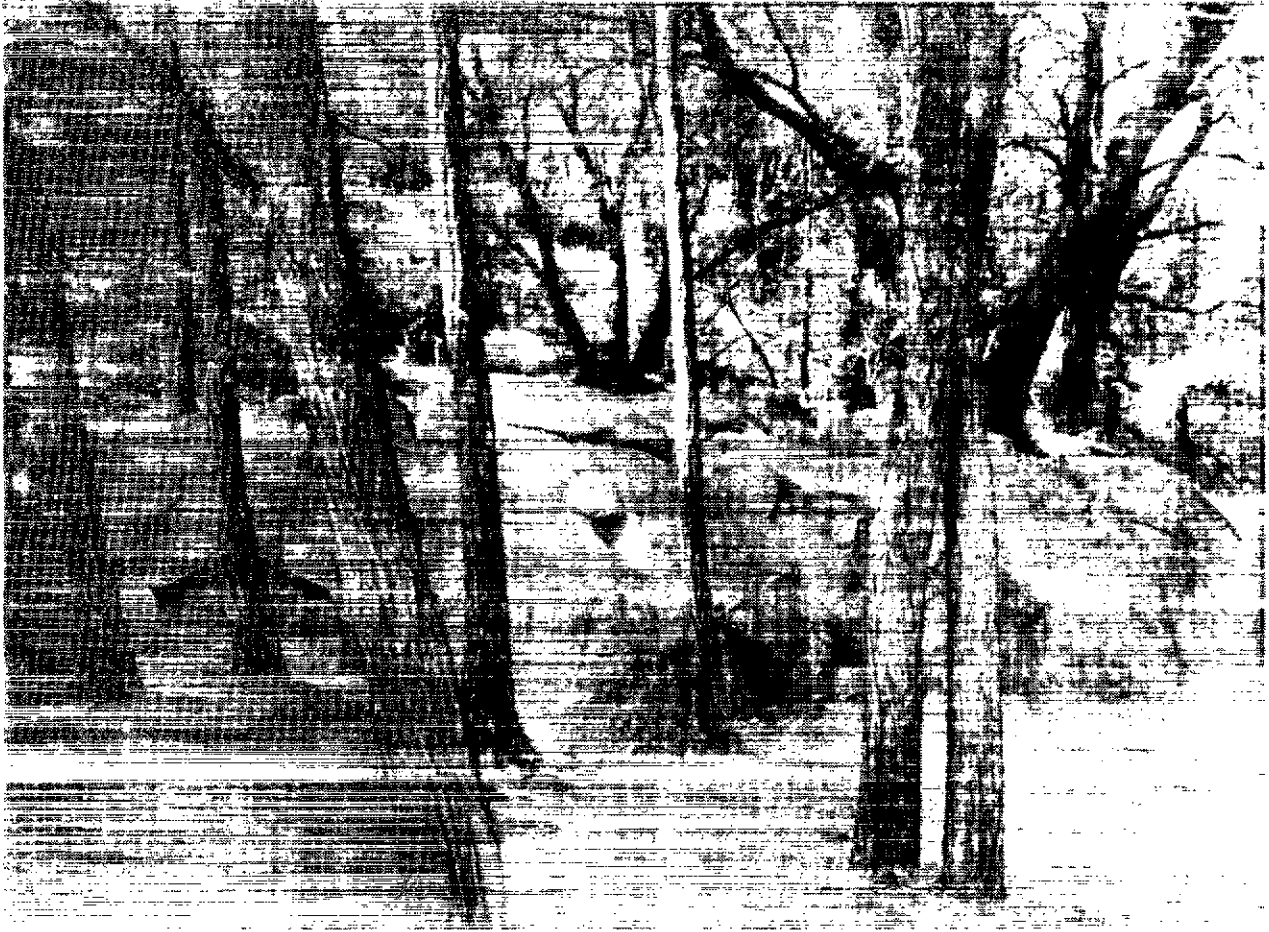
Climate

The climate at Coloma is typical of interior California. Summer days are usually quite warm, with average high temperatures in the high 80s and 90s, and lows in the 60s. The relatively low humidity ratings in summer average about 30 percent at noon, creating a high fire danger. The California Department of Forestry is responsible for fire suppression. Its closest station is 5 km from Coloma.

Winters are generally mild and wet. Air temperatures range in the 40s and 50s during the day, dropping to the 20s and 30s at night. Rainfall amounts to between 30 and 40 inches annually. Occasional snowfall seldom remains on the ground for more than a day. Winds, generally from the west during the summer and the southwest in winter, are seldom greater than 20 or 30 miles per hour.



The climate at Coloma is typical of interior California



Indian bedrock mortar site

Cultural Values

Existing Sites and Features

To date one Native American archeological site has been located, representing the occupation of the Coloma region, probably by the Nisenan. The site consists of a stone outcrop containing many bedrock mortars and an adjacent midden. The historic cultural resources of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP reflect the wide variety of activities that have taken place in and near Coloma since 1847. There are 12 restored and reconstructed historic structures (including two ruins) in the park that can be dated to the period 1847 to 1860. Twenty-one other structures, dating between 1860 and 1920, represent later historical developments. In addition to these buildings, nearly one hundred archeological features have been recorded. These include the remains of structure foundations, mined areas, agricultural terracing, retaining walls, orchards and gardens, mining and irrigation ditches, wells, roads, and artifact concentrations. A more detailed description of the cultural resources at the unit may be found in the Inventory of Features for Marshall Gold Discovery SHP, on file with the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Resource Evaluation

The California History Plan has described the major themes and periods of California history. Marshall Gold Discovery SHP is concerned with two major eras. John Sutter's

plans for New Helvetia and his sawmill at Coloma represent the Hispanic Era, in particular the Mexican Sub-era (1822-1848). James Marshall's momentous discovery of gold and the gold rush represent the American Era (1848-present). The prime interpretive period, 1847-1852, includes both these eras, since the park's prime theme includes events before and after Marshall's famous find. The secondary themes represented at the park are the Native American Era, and the sub-theme of Chinese immigration and agricultural development in the American Era.

The most striking deficiency in the unit's cultural resources is the lack of historic structures than can be dated to the prime interpretive period. Only 12 of these structures were constructed in the 1850s. Apparently only two of these (Bekeart's Gun Shop and the Weller House) might have been built in or before 1852. There were only four brick buildings constructed along Main Street in the 1850s; the rest were made of wood.

After the town started to decline in economic importance, many of its structures were abandoned and then destroyed by fire, or torn down for salvage. Main Street today bears little resemblance to the bustling street it was in the gold rush years. If Coloma is to be presented as it looked in the 1850s, then extensive reconstruction will be necessary.

Several historic features in Coloma are not in the park. If the story of the gold discovery and gold rush is to be complete, these features should be added to the unit. The preservation and protection of these resources will be better assured if they come under control of the unit. An additional advantage of acquiring these structures would be the establishment of a protective buffer around the park. Residential and recreational development is starting to accelerate in the area. To protect the unit from nonhistoric intrusions, more acquisition will be necessary.

The cultural resources of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP would allow a wide variety of themes to be interpreted. For generations, Californians, as well as people from outside the state, have been fascinated with the drama of the discovery of gold and the adventurous excitement of the gold rush. The unit can still stimulate this interest, but it can also contribute to a more sophisticated understanding of the gold rush period in our state's history.

A greater variety of people are visiting our historic parks today, and apparently they are more discerning and demanding in what they want to get from them. Some of the stories the public expects to be told are the evolution of placer mining technology, the effect of this technology on the development of community life and on the environment, the growth and decline of mining towns and their sociological significance, and the role of Native Americans, Chinese, other minority groups, and women in the gold rush era. The resources at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP can educate and entertain the visitor and meet the goal of satisfying these popular expectations.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The State Park Commission approved the following Declaration of Purpose for Marshall Gold Discovery SHP on November 17, 1965:

Near Coloma, James W. Marshall discovered gold in 1848! This event led to the greatest mass movement of people the world had ever known, and was the spark which ignited the spectacular growth of the west during the ensuing decades, making the location of the gold discovery one of the most significant historic sites in the nation. The purpose of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park is to secure to the people and to make available for their observation, inspiration, and enjoyment, the gold discovery site and its environs as an accurate portrayal of the story that unfolded at the time of the discovery and during the ensuing Gold Rush, primarily embracing the period from 1847 through 1852.

The function of the Division of Beaches and Parks at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park is to prescribe and execute a program to manage, maintain, protect, and interpret the gold discovery site and its setting; to preserve, protect, and interpret the remaining historical structures and evidences in Coloma which are pertinent to the declared purpose; to interpret the significance of the discovery of gold and its relationship to California's heritage; and to provide such facilities as are necessary for the full realization of the declared purpose.

The Division of Beaches and Parks is now the Department of Parks and Recreation; otherwise, most of the declaration is still applicable. However, since only two of the existing structures at the unit can be dated to the 1847-1852 period, there is a problem in confining our focus to the prime period.

DECLARATION OF MANAGEMENT POLICY

Natural Values

To perpetuate the cultural values at this historic unit requires preserving the principal elements of the natural setting in which the historic events took place. This involves protecting canyon sides and other topographic features in unscarred condition; retaining and managing major natural vegetative features; preventing any further scarring and intrusion by nonhistoric elements in the historic zone; and continuing to eliminate those intrusions and scars which have already taken place.

The department shall make every effort to determine, through appropriate kinds of research, the nature and character of the natural features of this region during the historic period. Two particularly significant natural features are the river channel and the woody vegetation. We must learn more about their historic condition so proper decisions can be made about managing and restoring them. It may turn out to be neither practical nor desirable to restore every aspect of these features to their historic-period condition.

With more information at hand, the department shall formulate and adopt resource management programs aimed at protecting, as far as it is within its power and ability, the character of the river channel and riverbed as well as the type, distribution, and natural succession of the vegetation at this unit. The vegetation restoration program shall eliminate undesirable nonhistoric plants that may have either invaded or have been introduced in the area. Any work that would eliminate such plants shall be preceded by a careful study of their historic origins. The introduction of certain exotic plants is an important part of Coloma's history, and consideration of this fact is basic to the natural resource planning of the park.

Cultural Values

Zone of Primary Cultural Interest

To protect cultural features and preserve a unit's historical and archeological integrity, Resource Management Directive No. 45 provides for creating Zones of Primary Cultural Interest. Since placer mining took place in every conceivable location in and around Coloma in the 1850s, every part of the unit has cultural significance. The Zone of Primary Cultural Interest will include areas of mining activity and town life, involving agricultural as well as commercial and social functions. The zone is made up of the west portion of the unit; the sites of Sutter's Mill and the gold discovery; the area of original Euroamerican settlement; the town's commercial center and much of its residential neighborhood; the Chinese section; the terraced and level agricultural land; and areas showing evidence of placer mining. (See fig. 2.)

The zone's eastern boundary starts at the west bank of the South Fork of the American River at a point 300 feet north of the gold discovery site. It then crosses the river to include the east bank for a distance of 400 feet. It then goes south to Mount Murphy Road, turns southwest, and crosses the Coloma bridge. Following southeast along the west bank for about 900 feet, the boundary then turns south along Sacramento Street for a distance of 800 feet. It then goes west to High Street and follows the park boundary to a point north of Monument Road. It then goes around the Monument and along Monument Trail, past the museum picnic area and maintenance yard, and across Highway 49 to the South Fork. The zone also includes the Emmanuel Church and the Coloma Pioneer Cemetery.

There are many nonhistoric structures and facilities in the zone. Several are private residences, some are homes for unit personnel, and the rest are storage and maintenance structures, restrooms, parking lots, picnic tables, and other nonhistoric features. These facilities are vital to the present operation of the park and need not be removed at present to comply with Resource Management Directive No. 45 until they can be replaced or relocated under the General Plan. No new construction or modifications may take place in the zone that would further impair its historic integrity. To alleviate the problem of the absence of architectural integrity, some of these structures may be temporarily modified.

Acquisition

Much of historic Coloma lies outside current park boundaries. Efforts by the department to acquire these parcels have been continuing for years and should proceed until other historically significant features are added to the unit.

The most historically significant area is bounded by the South Fork of the American River on the north, Monument Road on the south, High Street on the west, and Sacramento Street-Cold Springs Road on the east.

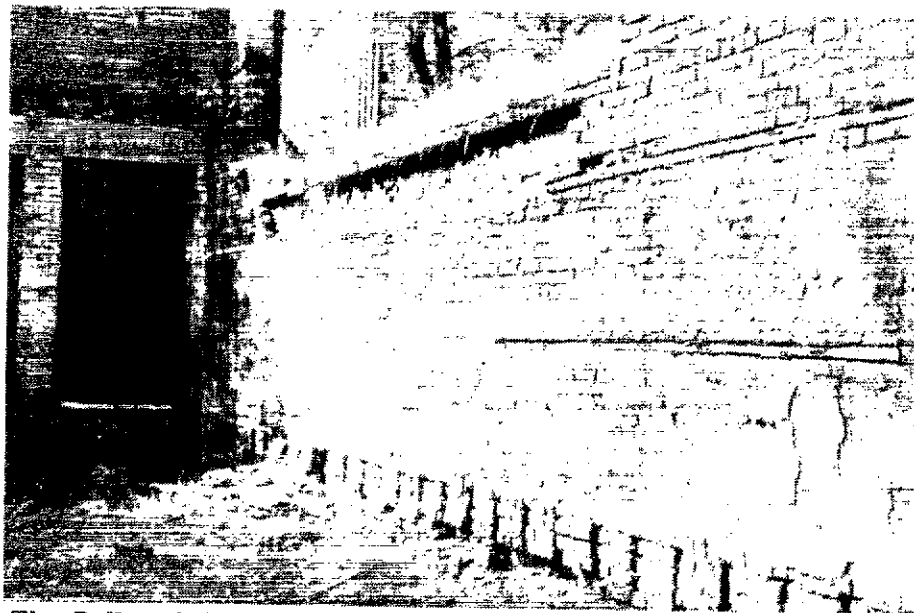
Another area across the river and southeast of the unit boundary contains a trailer park - a visual and cultural intrusion that produces activities not conducive to the objectives of the unit. Acquisition of this area is essential to protect the quality of the visitors' experience of esthetics and history.

The portion south of Monument Road, including the Coloma Vineyard House and ruins of the winery, is important in the history of the 1860s-1880s period, especially the history of wine making in the foothill region. Also, it is pertinent to the 1850s because the vineyard and winery belonged to two locally prominent individuals of this era - Martin Allhoff and Robert Chalmers. The Coloma Vineyard Winery started in business probably in the late 1850s or early 1860s. Three of its massive stone walls (along with the walls of a later wine cellar) are still intact on the property. There are also many artifacts relating to wine making scattered around the area. This property is of direct importance to the prime historic period and is a crucial part of the flow of history of Coloma.

Preservation, Restoration, and Reconstruction

The department is responsible for stabilizing and preserving all resources of primary cultural interest. At present, there are no structures or ruins that are in immediate danger because of lack of stabilization.

However, just how much stabilization will be needed will depend on future plans for development and interpretation. For example, the Bell Store is a ruin that consists of



The Bell and Allen Store is in need of stabilization

three high brick walls. A plan for more detailed interpretation, especially if it involves visitors having closer contact with the structure, must provide for more stabilization. This ruin is in a fragile condition, and for park visitor safety, and building protection, it should first be thoroughly inspected to determine its capability to withstand any modifications.

Therefore, before stabilization or any other preservation measures are started, priorities will be listed which will consider the current condition of existing resources, threats to the resources, and requirements of public safety and enjoyment.

Reconstructing historic structures is an important step toward recreating the historic qualities of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. Work on any reconstruction project will be phased to suit requirements of interpretation and general unit operation. Stabilization and restoration needs should be met before reconstruction occurs. Reconstruction priorities should take into account the original structure's historic significance, plans for interpretation, and unit operation needs.

Resource Management Directive No. 48 limits reconstruction to features in the prime period. Considering the dearth of existing features representing the earliest part of the prime period, 1847-1849, first priority should be given to reconstructing structures and facilities of this time (such as the double log cabin, Marshall's first cabin, the tents and lean-tos, and others). For the period 1849-1852, there is a problem in determining exactly what structures existed in the area. Few early documents date before mid-1853. More historical research will be required before a reconstruction plan can be made.

In cases where reconstruction may be supported in full or part by private individuals or agencies, the department shall establish guidelines for historic accuracy and compatibility with the unit's prime themes. If such a reconstruction project is proposed for a structure dating outside the prime period, the department shall not prevent it as long as there are no conflicts with the unit's Declaration of Purpose and no distractions from the unit's primary theme.

Intrusions

Undesirable vegetation now encroaches on historic features in the unit. Where this vegetation threatens historic structures, ruins, foundations, and other historic features, it will be controlled or removed. Foundations and other features that are now overgrown by vegetation or buried will be uncovered by methods which are compatible with the unit's cultural and natural values.

The most striking intrusions into the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest are Highway 49 and two visitor parking lots between the highway (Main Street) and the river, north of the mill replica. These modern facilities stand in marked contrast to the unit's historic qualities. They are a visual blight. The highway is an auditory blight. It is also a safety hazard. On busy days, it can be dangerous for visitors to cross it. It is common for visitors to park their cars on the shoulders of both sides of the highway, adding to safety risks and to the area's unsightliness.

A major long-range goal is to remove these intrusions from the zone. The ultimate solution to this problem would be to reroute this part of the highway to a place where it would be less intrusive and construct another parking lot outside the zone, or in a place and manner that would not disturb the unit's historical integrity.

Interpretation

The unit's primary theme is the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848 and the ensuing gold rush to California. Specifically, this theme would include the circumstances surrounding the discovery of gold; biographical material on James W. Marshall, and to some degree John Sutter; the gold rush; placer mining techniques; and the effect of California gold in the national economy and political life. Secondary themes would supplement these topics by emphasizing the growth and decline of the town of Coloma; the Southern Maidu; the Chinese in gold rush California; geology and mining technology; the natural history of the Coloma area; and the Mormon Battalion.

The prime period would concentrate on the years between 1847 and 1852, which included the establishment of Sutter's Mill, Marshall's discovery, and the gold rush from its beginning to its peak. The secondary period would be from 1853 to 1948. This era encompassed Marshall's later years, and the evolution of Coloma from a mining town to an agricultural village and, finally, to a famous historic site.

So that a more complete history of gold mining and Coloma is achieved for unit planning, the flow of history from the time of Native American habitation to the celebration of the gold discovery centennial deserves some consideration. However, this larger perspective should not diminish the significance of the primary and secondary themes. Rather, the stories of prominent events and people of the years outside the prime interpretive period would supplement the main story. Developments in Coloma after 1852 tell much about California's agriculture in the late nineteenth century (especially fruit growing and wine making). Developments after 1890, when the Marshall Monument was dedicated, tell us about how the public became more aware of the state's history and history makers. Coloma is one of California's most historic locations, but for decades this fact was scarcely recognized by the state's citizens.

Recreation

It shall be the department's policy to permit in this historic park those kinds of recreational uses consistent with the historic scene. It is desirable to emphasize historic forms of recreation practiced during the historic period, but modern compatible forms may also be allowed. Recreational uses which are irrelevant to the historic purpose of the unit or detract from visitor enjoyment of the historic scene or setting shall be prohibited in the unit. If already established, these uses shall be eliminated as soon as possible.

Operations

Operations must be in accord with the unit's historic character and other limits on the unit's use. The unit shall be restricted to day use. The park's location on Highway 49 and its accessibility from major metropolitan areas contribute to making it a popular place. At times, it can get quite crowded. Traffic congestion and heavy visitor use pose a threat to the cultural resources from accidents, theft, and vandalism. Therefore, visitor activities must be managed so that cultural resources and interpretive facilities are protected.

Any concession permitted in the unit must comply with standards of historic accuracy for architectural style and original use. It must be compatible with the primary themes and period, and the interpretive plan, and be consistent with the requirements of unit maintenance and general operation. All departmental activities at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park shall be conducted in conformity with the Resource Management Directives of the department.

LEGEND

STRUCTURES

EXISTING HISTORIC BUILDING (REFER TO KEY)

EXISTING NON-HISTORIC BUILDING

SITE OF BUILDING WHICH EXISTED DURING PRIME INTERPRETIVE PERIOD, 1847-1882

MINING SITES

PLACER MINING SITE

HYDRAULIC MINING SITE

DITCH

MINE TUNNEL

OTHER HISTORIC FEATURES

AGRICULTURAL TERRACING

SITE OF FORMER ORCHARD OR VINEYARD

INDIAN BEDROCK MORTARS

AREA OF FRONTIER SETTLEMENT

ZONE OF PRIMARY CULTURAL INTEREST

ABANDONED ROAD

CEMETERY

0 125 250 500 750

SCALE IN FEET

0 60 120 180 240

1 CM. = 60 METERS

↑ N

KEY TO HISTORIC BUILDINGS			
BUILDG. NO.	BUILDING NAME	DATES OF EXISTENCE	HISTORIC USE / CURRENT USE
EXISTING HISTORIC BUILDINGS			
1.	Remains of Sutter's Mill	1848-49	Residence
2.	McKinnon Cabin	pre 1850-present	Residence
3.	Miller's Cabin	pre 1850-present	Residence
4.	Robert's Residence	1850s-present	Residence
5.	Thomas House	1860s-present	Residence
6.	Marshall's Cabin	pre 1810-present	Residence
7.	Vernon House	post 1800-present	Residence
8.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
9.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
10.	A. B. B. House	1800s-present	Residence
11.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
12.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
13.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
14.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
15.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
16.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
17.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
18.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
19.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
20.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
21.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
22.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
23.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
24.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
25.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
26.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
27.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
28.	Vermon House	1800s-present	Residence
SITES OF BUILDINGS WHICH EXISTED DURING THE PRIME INTERPRETIVE PERIOD, 1847-1882			
29.	Marshall's First Cabin	1848	Residence
30.	Chambers' Sierra Nevada Hotel	1860-1892	Hotel/Restaurant/Shop
31.	Vermon House	1848-1877	Hotel
32.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
33.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
34.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
35.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
36.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
37.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
38.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
39.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
40.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
41.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
42.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
43.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel
44.	Vermon House	1867/1873-1867	Hotel

NOTE: THIS MAP ILLUSTRATES THE PRIME CULTURAL RESOURCES ONLY. REFER TO THE "1857-HERMAN AV" MAP FOR OTHER HISTORIC FEATURES.

PRIME CULTURAL RESOURCES

DRAWING NO. 16694	SHEET NO. OF	MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY STATE HISTORIC PARK PRIME CULTURAL RESOURCES	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		DESIGNED
			APPROVED	DATE	DRAWN
					CHECKED

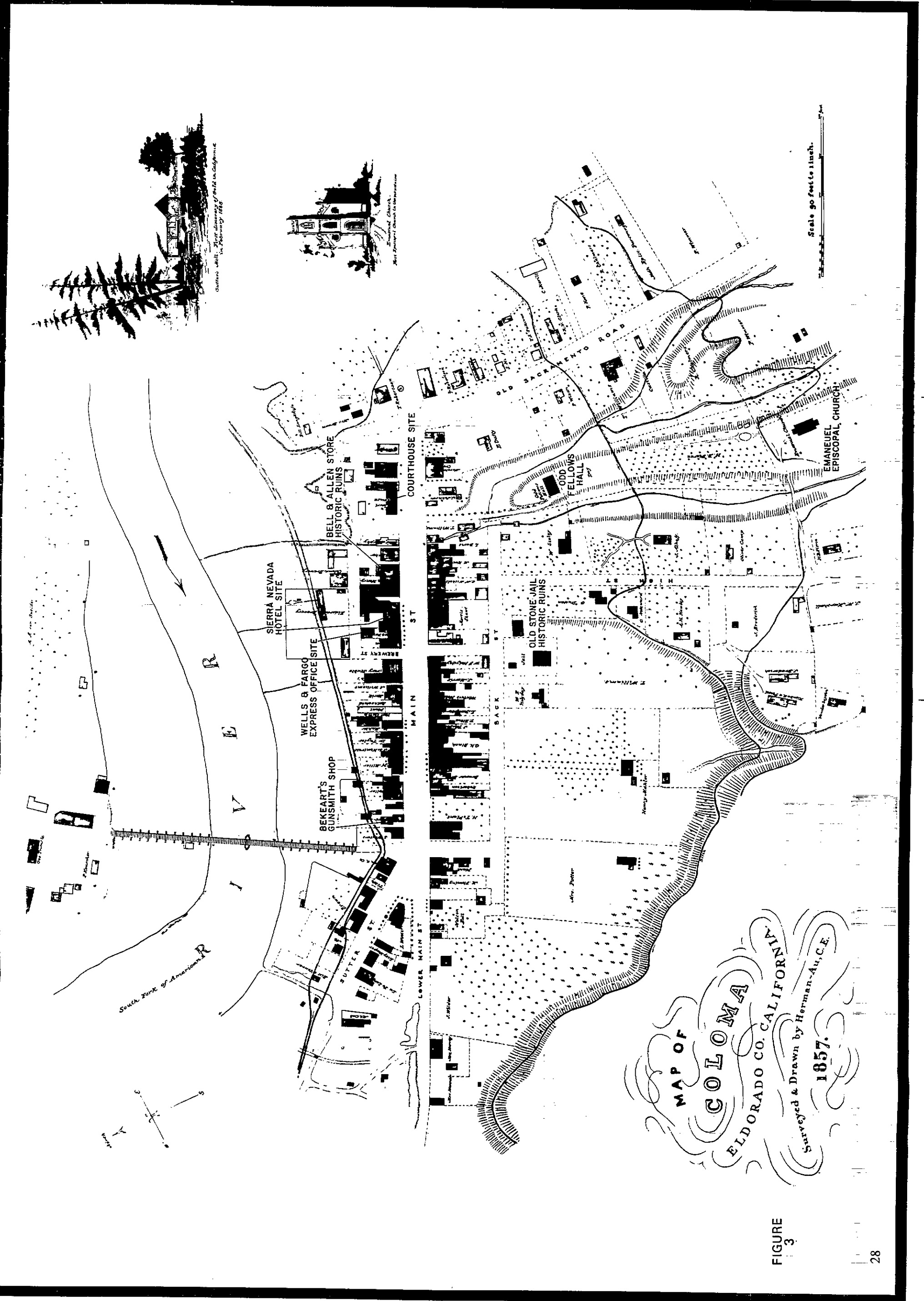


FIGURE 3



LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT





LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

The Land Use and Facilities Element of the General Plan is a narrative and graphic description of how the unit's various areas will be used and what park facilities will be provided. It is intended to serve as a long-range, but flexible, guideline for future park development, consistent with the management policies set forth in the Resource Element.

SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The specific goals and objectives of this plan are to:

- (1) Place a greater emphasis on the interpretation and development of the gold discovery site.
- (2) Improve methods of interpreting Coloma's earliest development and life-styles that directly relate to the gold discovery.
- (3) Improve the visitor orientation and circulation systems in the park.
- (4) Determine the most suitable areas for the development or relocation of park facilities outside the prime historic areas.
- (5) Identify environmentally suitable areas for the potential development of recreation facilities.
- (6) Identify potential land additions to the existing park property.
- (7) Establish a program for development by describing the general sequence of plan implementation.

Col. R. B. Mason's maps of the Upper and Lower mines. Reproduced in H. F. See, Doc. 10th Cong., 2d sess. (Washington, 1848). These, included in President Polk's annual message of 1848, were the first and most accurate maps drawn of the site of the gold discovery. In addition, the road from Sutter's Fort to Coloma is indicated. (Pl. of III. Courtesy of Bancroft Library.)

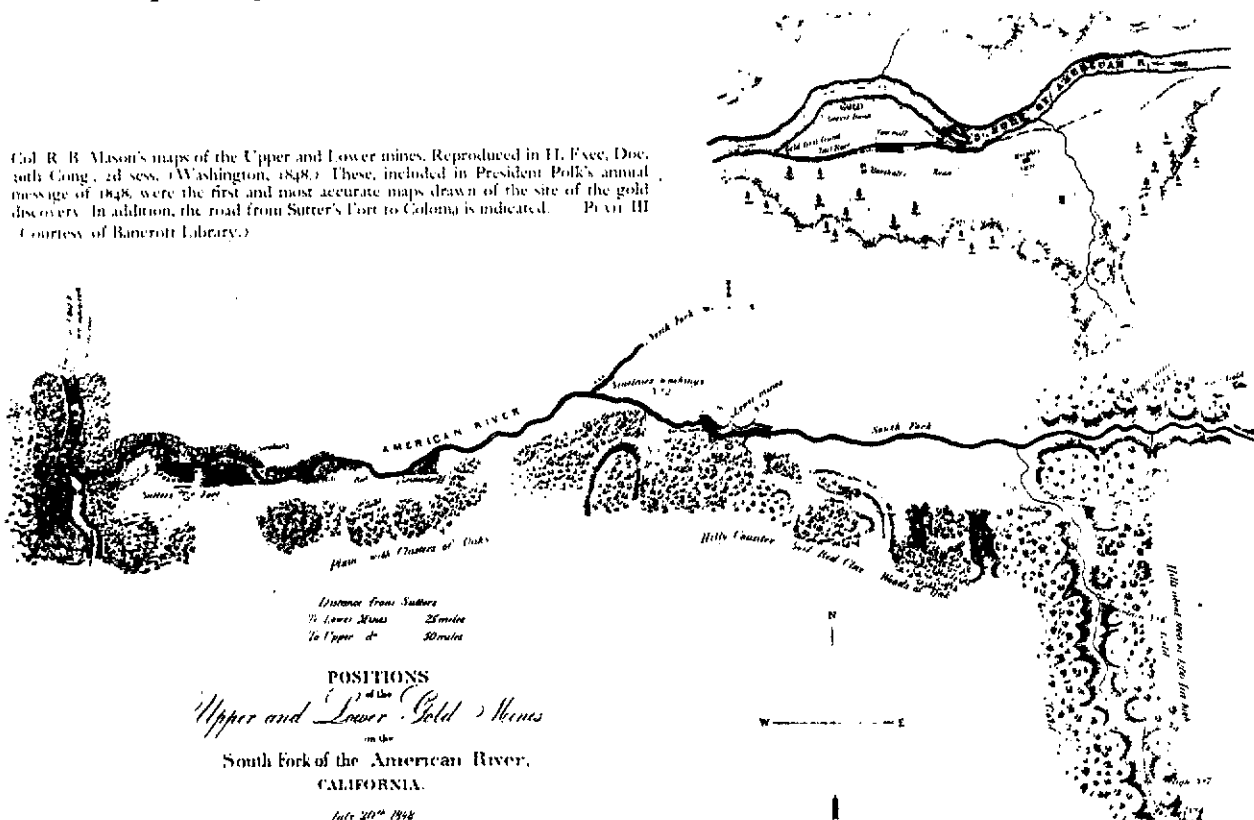


Figure 4
VISITOR ORIGIN SUMMARY

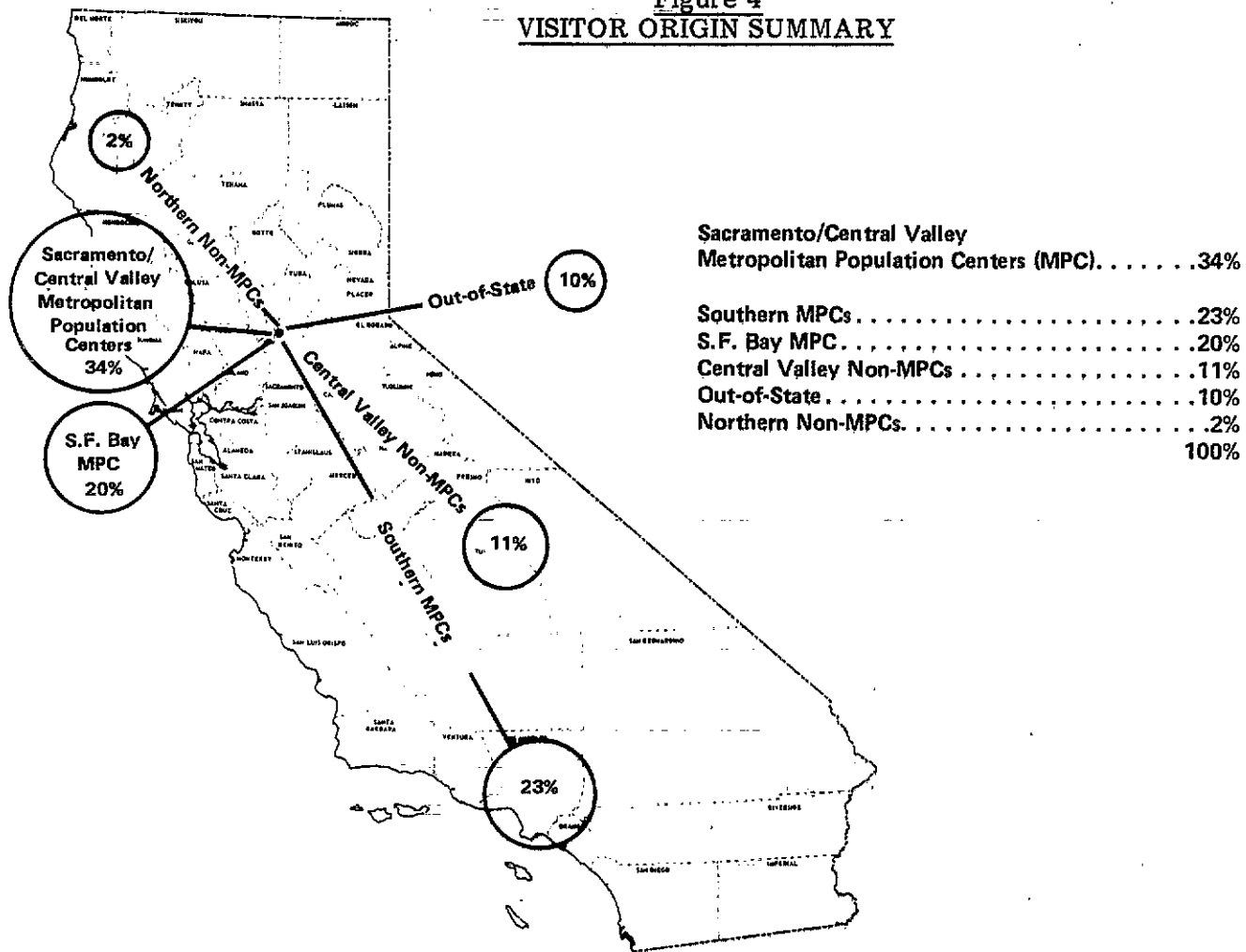


Table 2

Marshall Gold Discovery SHP
Average Monthly Attendance

<u>Month</u>	<u>Percent of Yearly Attendance</u>
January	8
February	4
March	6
April	5
May	9
June	15
July	17
August	18
September	7
October	5
November	3
December	3

50% of yearly attendance

VISITOR USE ANALYSIS

To satisfy the needs of the park user an understanding of the visitors' origins, attendance, and activities is necessary. The following user profile identifies these trends and assesses their significance.

Visitor Origins

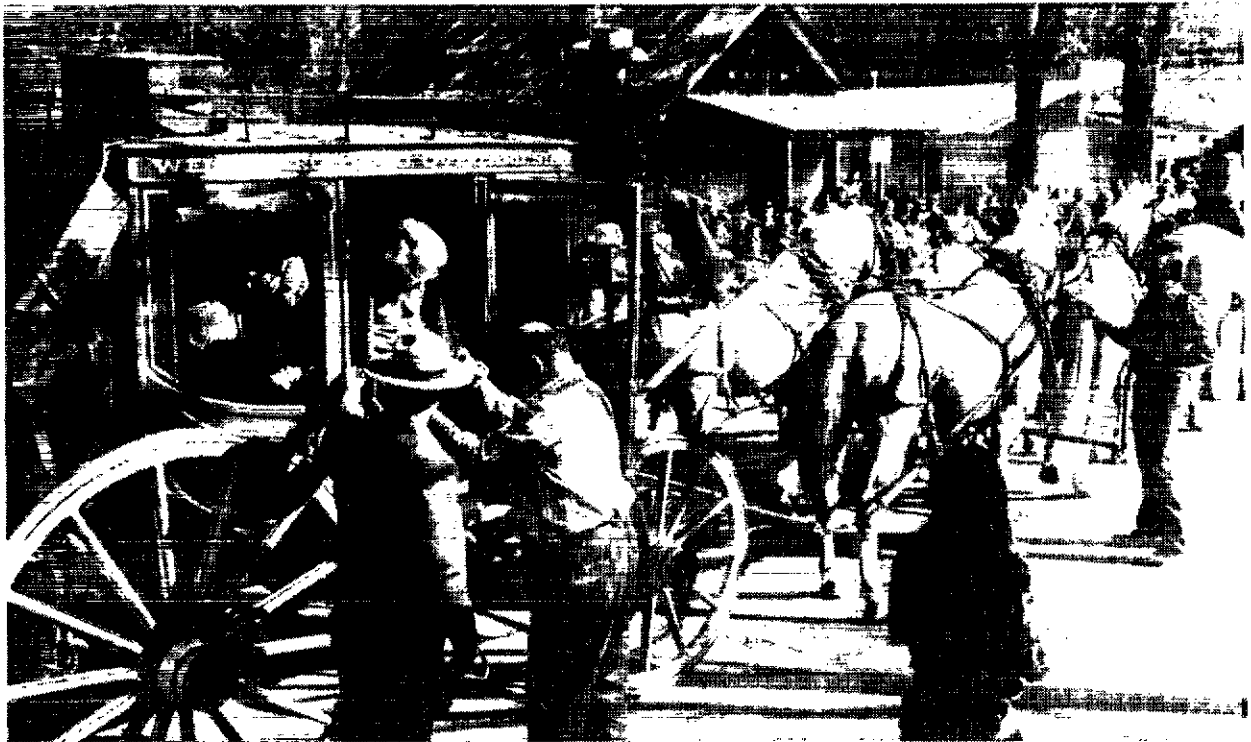
As shown by the visitor origin map (see p. 32), the largest single group of visitors to Marshall Gold Discovery SHP come from the Sacramento and Central Valley areas. But equally important are the high percentages of visitors who travel from all over the state and nation. These figures reflect the statewide and national significance of this park unit and other related features along historic Highway 49.

Visitor Attendance

The unit's annual attendance has doubled in the last ten years to about 450,000 people for the 1976-77 fiscal year. Half of this visitation occurs from June through August (see table 2). Weekend visitation during these months frequently reaches 5,000 people. These increases in visitation are causing visitor control problems and undesirable impacts on historic resources.

The annual celebration of the gold discovery generated as many as 50,000 visitors in a single day. This event was discontinued because of lack of means to control the crowds and their impact on the park.

Monitoring visitor attendance at the unit is difficult. With public highways and roads located throughout the park, no single controllable entry point is available. This allows



Gold Discovery Days parade, 1975

park visitors to come and go as they please, as well as providing the opportunity for indiscriminate parking. This lack of visitor control also accounts for the high percentage of nonpaying park users. On any given day, as many as three-fourths of the park users do not pay day-use fees.

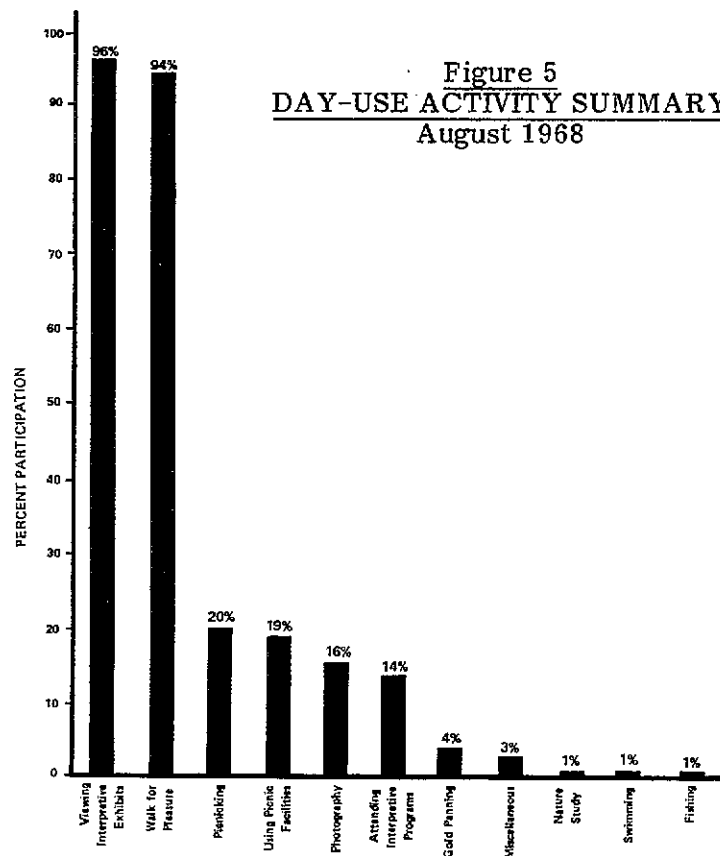
On the average, visitors spend about two hours at the unit. This varies, depending on what activities visitors participate in. Some visitors will come and go in less than an hour while others, such as a busload of children, may spend most of the day.

Visitor Use Activities

Visitor day-use activities at the unit are historic and recreational in nature. They provide both interpretive and recreational opportunities, which was confirmed by a survey completed in the summer of 1968. The survey, which summarized day-use activities, attempted to predict which activities visitors will participate in while at the park. The unit's popularity, according to the survey, can be attributed to the following reasons:

1. Quality of historic resources (in and around the park)
2. Quality of natural resources (river/foothill environments)
3. Accessibility and proximity to urban populations

For many visitors, historic interest has become secondary to the park's natural attributes, making Marshall Gold Discovery SHP a popular site for recreational activities. It is believed the percentage of visitor participation has increased dramatically since the 1968 survey (see fig. 5). Other changes described in the day-use activity summary include "attending interpretive programs" and "nature studies." Since the survey was completed, additional interpretive programs and nature study activities have been developed and more participation has resulted.





Antique shop located in old schoolhouse and realty office are two commercial businesses recently acquired

REGIONAL LAND USE

Existing land uses in the Coloma area consist primarily of agricultural, low-density residential, and open space used for recreation and other low-density developments. Few businesses are located along major roads and highways near the park.

Although these uses do not necessarily conflict with the primary objectives at Marshall Gold, certain controls over the type and appearance of buildings constructed in these areas will be necessary to preserve the character of the park and surrounding land.

Local Design Control

El Dorado County is the primary responsible planning agency for land in the immediate area of the unit. The Land Use Element of the County's General Plan is now being updated and refined to include scenic highway and architectural design controls. Historic and Design Control Districts will be established in areas of special historic interest.

One purpose of this General Plan is to assist El Dorado County in the regulation of land use and the intensity of future development around the park. This plan's proposed "development control zone" identifies property that should be protected by proper zoning, architectural and design controls, and scenic highway easements (see fig.). Further protection and benefits for the Coloma townsite, a National Historic Landmark, are offered under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The El Dorado County Transportation Plan and Scenic Highways Element provide guidelines for construction and maintenance along scenic routes. In addition, Highway 49, the Mother Lode Highway, is identified as a scenic route in the State Scenic Highway Master Plan. This plan presents a system of scenic highways and recommends a program for scenic corridor designation.

Local Recreational Facilities

The day-use opportunities at the unit are supplemented by a wide variety of local public recreational facilities. Some of the most popular outdoor recreational pursuits available in the area are camping, hiking, fishing, picnicking, rafting, and sightseeing.

Five privately owned campgrounds are located within five miles of Coloma on the South Fork of the American River. In addition to camping, these areas are used for picnicking, fishing, swimming, rafting access, and gold panning:

Coloma Resort - Located along the South Fork of the American River east of the park, it includes more than 100 campsites, cabins, and motel units.

Camp Coloma - Located one-half mile south of the park off Highway 49, it includes a 100-space riverside campground with about 35 hook-ups for recreational vehicles. Also featured are a swimming pool, beach, and gold panning classes.

Pt. Pleasant Beach - Located off Highway 49 to the north side of the park and operated since 1948, this area includes 22 campsites with fishing and swimming areas along the river. No hook-ups are provided. During summer weekends, the campground is often full.

Camp Lotus - Located about two miles north of Coloma and one mile outside the town of Lotus, it includes 30 undeveloped campsites which accommodate about 400 people. Eleven hook-ups are provided. The camp allows excellent access for rafters to the American River.

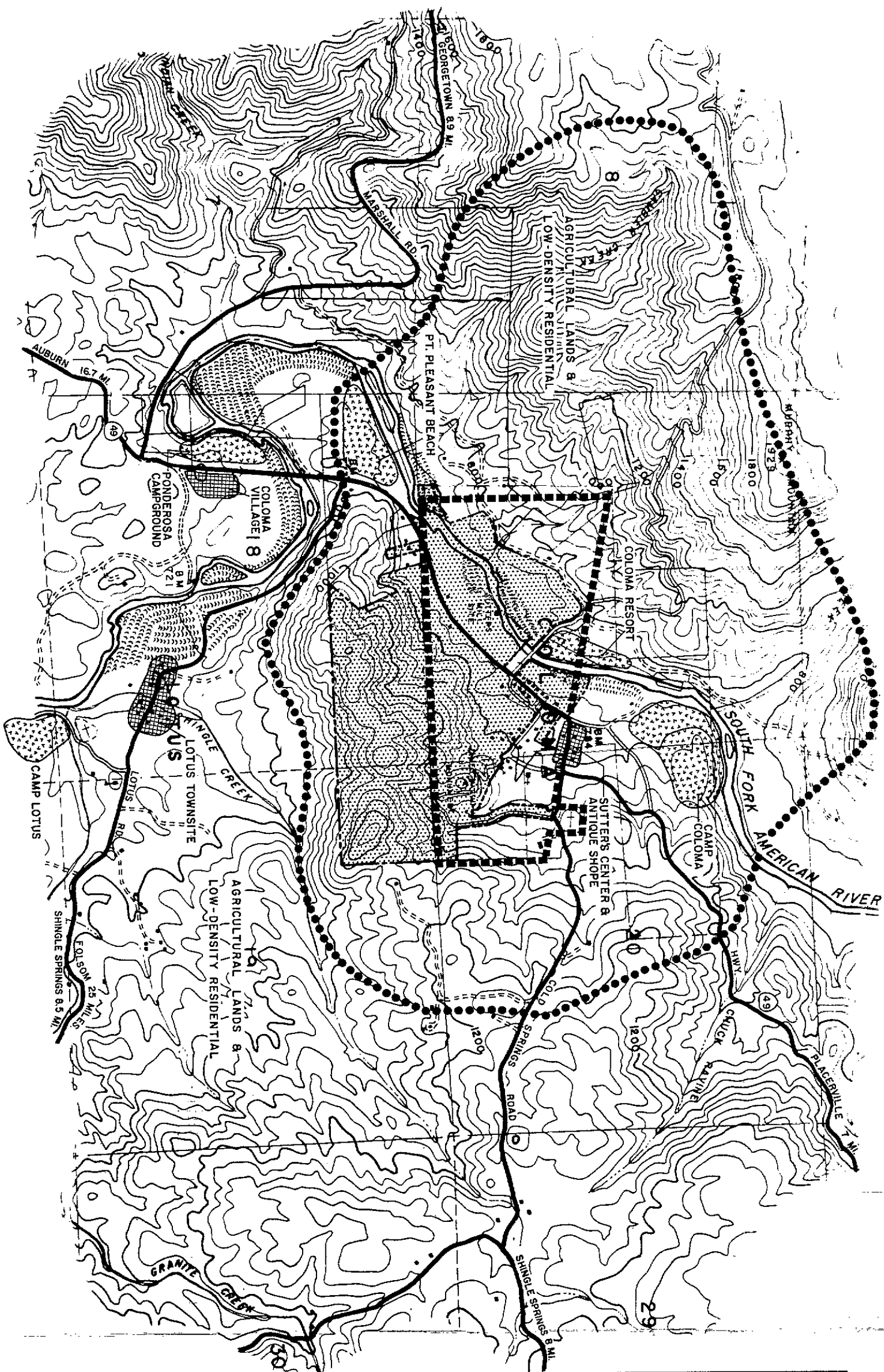
Ponderosa Campground - Located off Highway 49 about one mile north of the park, this campground includes about 50 campsites with fishing, swimming, gold panning, and rafting along the river. A private concession, restroom, and other public facilities are also provided.

Future Recreation Facilities

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has proposed a series of dams and reservoirs on the South Fork of the American River (the SOFAR project). Preliminary plans are currently being prepared with the assistance of federal, state, and local government agencies and private consultants. Several aspects of this project pose major concerns for the future management and visitor use of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. They are summarized as follows:

- (1) Although the proposed dams will not be visible from the park's historic area, it is important that related development, such as powerlines or other structures, be screened from view.
- (2) As a result of the proposed Salmon Falls and Coloma reservoirs, the development of additional local recreational facilities may be expected.
- (3) If the Salmon Falls Reservoir is constructed, the number of rafters entering the American River from the park will be drastically reduced.
- (4) If the Coloma Reservoir is constructed, the use of the park by rafters leaving the American River will be totally eliminated.
- (5) The SOFAR project is expected to improve the present control of river flow and flood protection along the American River.
- (6) As a result of the probable development of recreation facilities, traffic along Highway 49 is expected to steadily increase.

REGIONAL LAND USE



LEGEND

- STATE PARK OWNERSHIP
- PRIVATELY OWNED CAMPGROUNDS
- COMMERCIAL BUSINESS
- AGRICULTURAL AND LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- DEVELOPMENT CONTROL ZONE
- NATIONAL REGISTRY OF HISTORIC PLACES
- EXISTING ROADS

0 500 1000 2000 3000

SCALE IN FEET

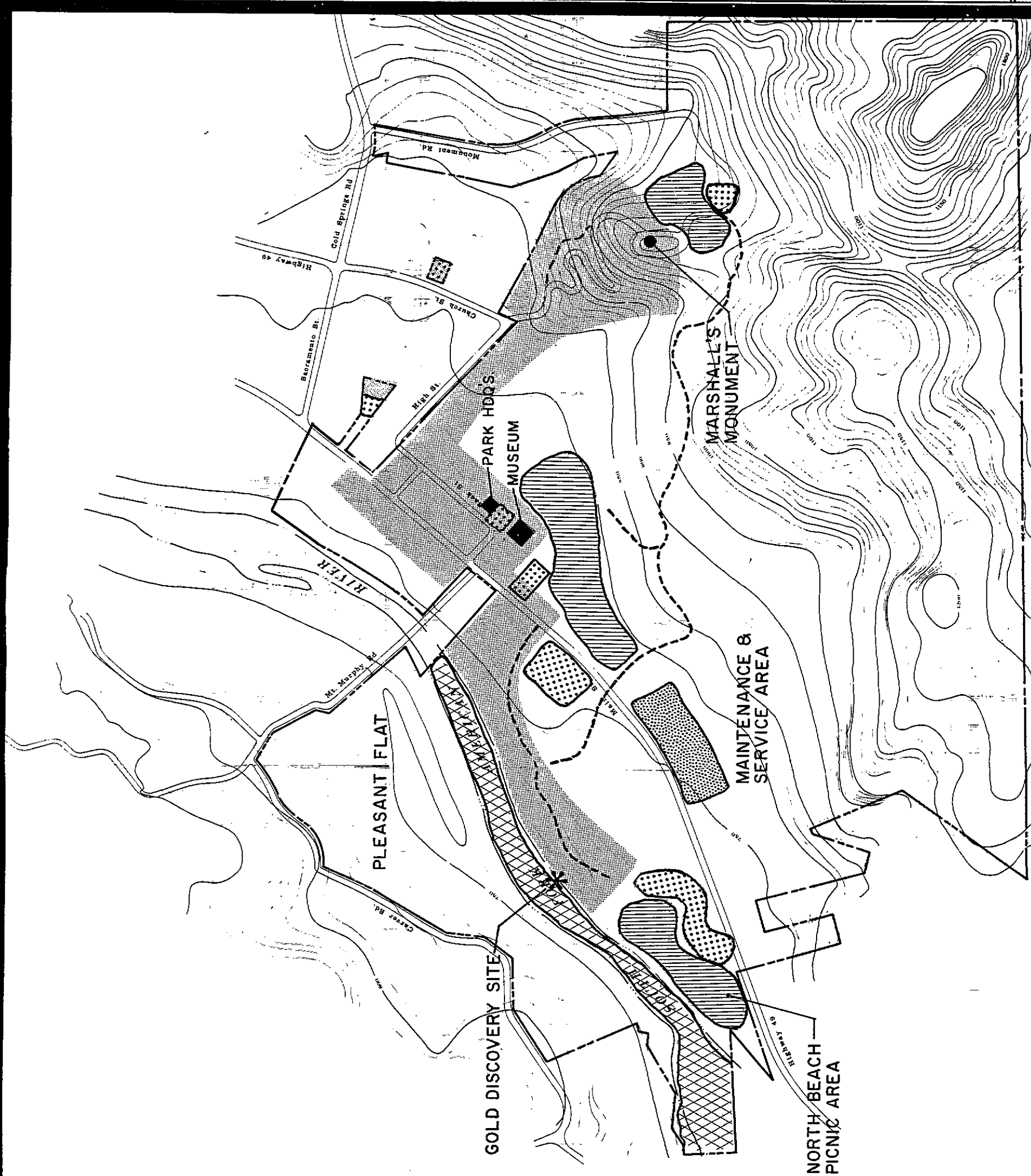
0 240 480 720 960

1 CM. = 240 METERS

37

FIGURE 6

DRAWING NO. 16694	MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY STATE HISTORIC PARK	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	DESIGNED	REVISIONS	DATE
				DRAWN	
				CHECKED	
SHEET NO. OF	REGIONAL LAND USE	APPROVED _____ DATE _____			



LEGEND

--- EXISTING PARK BOUNDARY

--- EXISTING TRAILS

--- EXISTING ROADS

LAND USE AREA

INTERPRETIVE

DAY-USE PICNIC

RIVER RECREATION

OPEAN SPACE

ADMINISTRATIVE & MAINTENANCE

PARKING

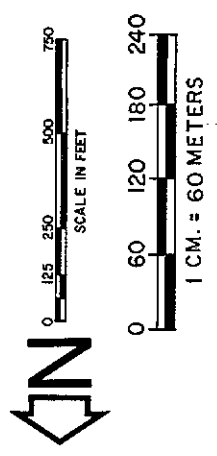


FIGURE 7

EXISTING LAND USE

EXISTING LAND USE

Existing Land Use Plan

All lands within the present boundary of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP have primary or secondary historic values that relate to the various interpretive themes presented at the park. Historically, land uses in this area have changed considerably due to Coloma's economic evolution from the gold rush era to the present. A continuous program of acquisition and development at Marshall Gold has resulted in the establishment of noninterpretive land uses in primary historic areas.

Recreational use at Marshall Gold is currently restricted to day use only. No overnight camping is allowed. Three picnic areas, with more than a hundred sites and a small swimming beach, are located within the park. Recreational activities include swimming and fishing in the river, sightseeing, picnicking, gold panning, rafting, and walking for pleasure along existing interpretive trails. These activities in themselves do not necessarily conflict with the park's historic objectives. However, the occurrence of these activities in certain areas contributes to the deterioration of valuable resources and detracts from the visual quality of the historic scene.

The existing land use plan (see map) refers to property within the present park boundary and includes the following categories.

Interpretive Areas

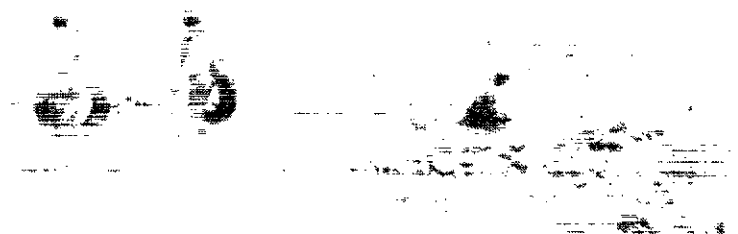
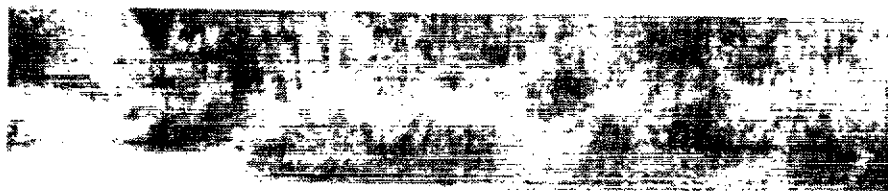
The major existing interpretive areas are the Gold Discovery Site, Sutter's Mill Replica, Coloma Townsite, and Marshall's Monument area. These areas consist of land having primary and secondary historic values. Each of these areas contains various items that provide the means for interpreting the major themes. These items include historical landmark sites, exhibits, structures, and the like. Many of these interpretive areas were developed for other uses such as parking, picnicking, administration, and maintenance, and are identified on the map of existing land use by their current use.



The outstanding attraction of the park is the full-size replica of Sutter's mill



Day-use picnic area



Swimming and gold panning on the American River



Park headquarters

Day-Use Picnic Areas

These areas consist of open space that provides picnic facilities for visitors who wish to enjoy the park's natural environmental qualities. These areas are developed in three locations totaling about 3 acres. They are:

The North Beach Picnic Area (1 acre): This area is located outside the primary historic zone and also provides a small beach for swimming and fishing in the South Fork of the American River. River rafters frequently use this area for access to the river.

The Main Picnic Area (1.5 acres): This area is located near the museum and is widely used by families and groups viewing the interpretive displays and exhibits. This area has primary historic significance and is identified within the boundary of the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. This area is enjoyed by many park visitors for its shade from the mature oaks and its closeness to park facilities. The open field next to this area currently provides a space for group sports and other activities. This use has created several problems for the management of the park and the preservation and interpretation of historic resources. When a lot of people visit the park, especially on summer weekends, this area is heavily used. Picnickers parking their cars along Highway 49 also contribute to traffic congestion and the deterioration of the historic scene.

The Marshall's Monument Picnic Area: This area was developed to serve large groups primarily interested in the historical significance of James Marshall and his gold discovery. The mature trees and quiet surroundings provide an excellent spot for those who wish to spend their time away from the main activity areas.

River Recreation

This use occurs along the banks of the South Fork of the American River, primarily to the north side of the existing bridge. Activities include swimming, rafting, fishing, and gold panning. Currently there are no restricted areas along the river for these activities, although existing access and river flows limit these activities to a few general areas near the gold discovery site, the unit's primary historic interpretive location. The increasing number of rafters who enter or leave the river at this point represents a significant visual impact on the historic scene and the National Historic Landmark location.

Open Space Areas

These areas have secondary historic values that include both natural features and some remaining evidences of mining and agricultural activity located throughout the park. The primary purpose of this property is to provide a necessary buffer between existing historic features and development on nearby private lands, and to preserve the historic integrity of the area in its natural state. These areas include the hillside of the park and land between the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest and existing state park boundaries.

Administrative and Maintenance Areas

Currently there is one principal maintenance area located next to Highway 49 near the Chinese historic area. It includes several structures for park maintenance, personnel housing, and storage. Various other structures are also used for storage throughout the park, including a carpenter's shop located in the prime historic area of the Coloma Townsite.

The Marshall Gold Discovery area office (park headquarters) is located in a nonhistoric building of rustic appearance next to the museum on Back Street. Four buildings in the park are currently used for housing park staff, who provide added protection for park resources. Although these structures are not historically significant, their location and appearance seem compatible with the historic interpretive themes for these areas.

Parking Areas

There are currently six off-street parking areas in the park to serve visitors, park employees, and concession employees. Only two of these (North Beach and Monument parking areas) were developed outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. The others are located in areas having primary historic interpretive value and are essential for park operations and visitor use under present conditions. Parking along the shoulders of Highway 49 (Main Street) and county roads throughout the park is currently allowed, creating serious problems for visitor safety and control of vehicles in historic areas.



Visitors presently park along the shoulders of the highway creating a hazardous situation

EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

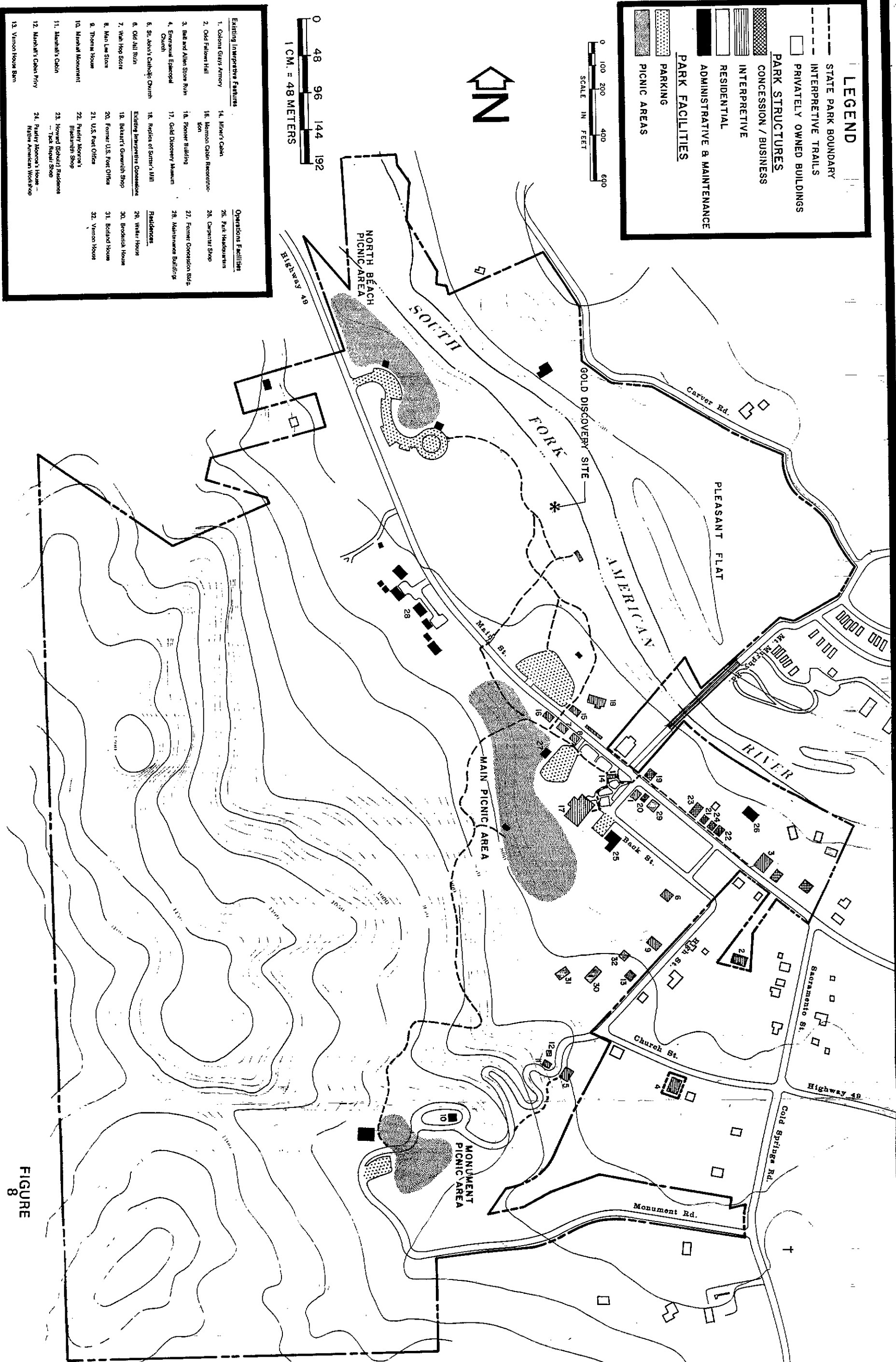


FIGURE 8

DRAWING NO. 16694

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY STATE HISTORIC PARK
EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED
		DRAWN January 1973 CHECKED



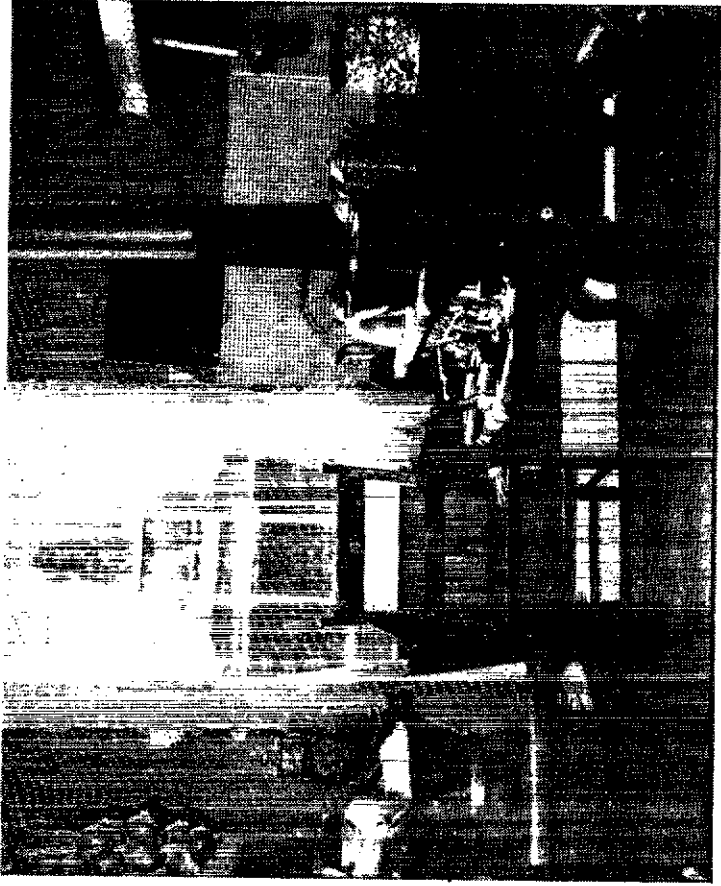
Interpretive panels tell the story of James W. Marshall's gold discovery



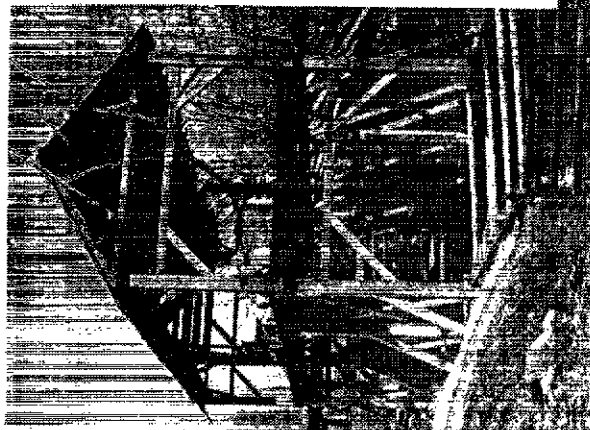
Marshall's cabin



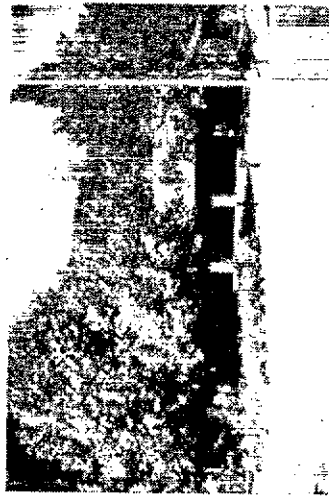
Bekeart's Gunsmith Shop-Gift Shop



Thomas House - restored and exhibited as a house museum



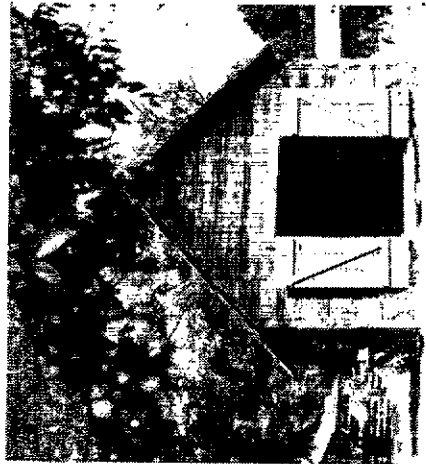
Replica of Sutter's mill



Gold Discovery Museum



In the museum, exhibits tell the story of Sutter and Marshall, and of the gold discovery that so drastically altered their lives



Reconstructed miner's cabin



The gold discovery site bears little resemblance today to the way it looked in 1848

Existing Park Facilities

The facilities listed in tables 3-5 are shown on the map of existing park facilities. Refer to the interpretive facilities chart (p. 59) for more detailed information.

Table 3

Interpretive Facilities

Interpretive Features

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Estimated Construction Date</u>
Coloma Grays Armory	1850s
Odd Fellows Hall	1854
Bell and Allen Store Ruin	1855-56
Emmanuel Episcopal Church	1856
St. John's Catholic Church	1856
Old Jail Ruin	1856
Wah Hop Store	pre-1860
Man Lee Store	pre-1860
Thomas House	1860s
Marshall Monument	1890
Marshall's Cabin	1862
Marshall's Cabin Privy	post-1900
Vernon House Barn	1900
Miner's Cabin	pre-1910
Mormon Cabin Reconstruction	1948
Pioneer Building	1948
Gold Discovery Museum	1961
Replica of Sutter's Mill	1968

Interpretive Concessions

Bekeart's Gunsmith Shop - Gift Shop	pre-1854
Former U.S. Post Office - Coloma Emporium (vacant)	post-1903
U.S. Post Office - Post Office	post-1903
Pearley Monroe's Blacksmith Shop - Blacksmith Shop	1906
Howard (Schulz) Residence - Tack Repair Shop	pre-1908
Pearley Monroe's House - Native American Workshop	1925

Outdoor Exhibits

Sutter's Mill Area
Gold Discovery Site
Marshall's Monument
Museum - outdoor display of mining equipment
Miscellaneous interpretive panels and bulletin boards

California State Historical Landmarks

James Marshall Historical Monument (#143)
Gold Discovery Site (#530)
Coloma Road Plaque (#748)

Table 4

Recreation Facilities

North Beach Picnic Area (about 1 acre)

70-car visitor parking
43 portable picnic tables
30 metal barbecues
2 restroom facilities
Small swimming beach



North Beach picnic area

Main Picnic Area (about 1.5 acres)

40-car visitor parking
28 concrete picnic tables
23 portable picnic tables
20 stone barbecues
1 restroom facility

Monument Picnic Area (about 0.5 acre)

35-car visitor parking
13 group picnic tables
6 portable picnic tables
1 restroom facility



Parking at the North Beach picnic area

Sutter's Mill Area

100-car visitor parking
No picnic tables
1 restroom facility

Church Area

Undeveloped 40-car parking

Odd Fellows Hall

About 15-car parking

Gold Discovery Museum

About 15-car parking



Picnic facilities are now located in historic interpretive areas

Table 5

Operation Facilities

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Estimated Construction Date</u>
<u>Administrative and Maintenance</u>	
Park Headquarters Building	1937
Carpenter Shop	1945
Former Concession Building	1948
Maintenance and Service Area (6 miscellaneous maintenance buildings)	late 1940s
Miscellaneous restrooms, garages, and storage sheds	varies
<u>Residences Managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation</u>	
Weller House	pre-1853
J. Broderick (Norris) House	1857
A. Borland House	1860
Vernon House	post-1900
Park Residence	1930-40s
Park Residence (duplex)	1947
Park Residence	1947
Park Residence	1947
Park Residence	1949
Park Residence	1956
Park Residence	1959
<u>Buildings Managed by the Department of General Services</u>	
Antique Shop (old schoolhouse)	1920-30s
Leased Residence	1954
Leased Residence	1967
Leased Residence	1970
Realty Office	1972
Leased Residence	1974



Restroom facilities are provided in picnic areas



Maintenance and service buildings

Utilities and Service

Electricity: Pacific Gas and Electric Company provides electric service to the park and residences in the area. Overhead electrical lines are located along Sacramento Street and Carver Road outside existing park boundaries. Electrical power to park facilities is carried through underground utilities which follow roadway easements from the edge of existing boundaries.

Water: The existing water supply is currently provided by the El Dorado Irrigation District to the park and a few residences in the Coloma area. Two parcels recently acquired for the park are not within the EID and must rely on wells for their domestic water supply. Limited amounts of water are available from an EID irrigation ditch which runs through the park. This water is suitable for irrigation purposes only. Well water, however, is adequate and is used by a number of property owners in the area.

Telephone: Public telephone service to park administrative facilities is provided by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Sewage Disposal: Septic tanks and leach fields are used for sewage disposal.

Gas: There is no natural gas available in the area.

PROPOSED LAND USE

Visitor Orientation

While many visitors to Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park are well informed and have definite plans for what they want to do and see, others just happen upon the park while traveling through the region. There is no single entry into the park, which makes visitor flow a problem. There are three access roads and five widely scattered parking lots, plus parking along Highway 49. This necessitates orienting visitors to the park and telling all important messages in several different locations.

The Gold Discovery Museum and park headquarters are located off Highway 49 near the center of the main historic areas. These facilities now serve as the main visitor contact point and interpretive center.

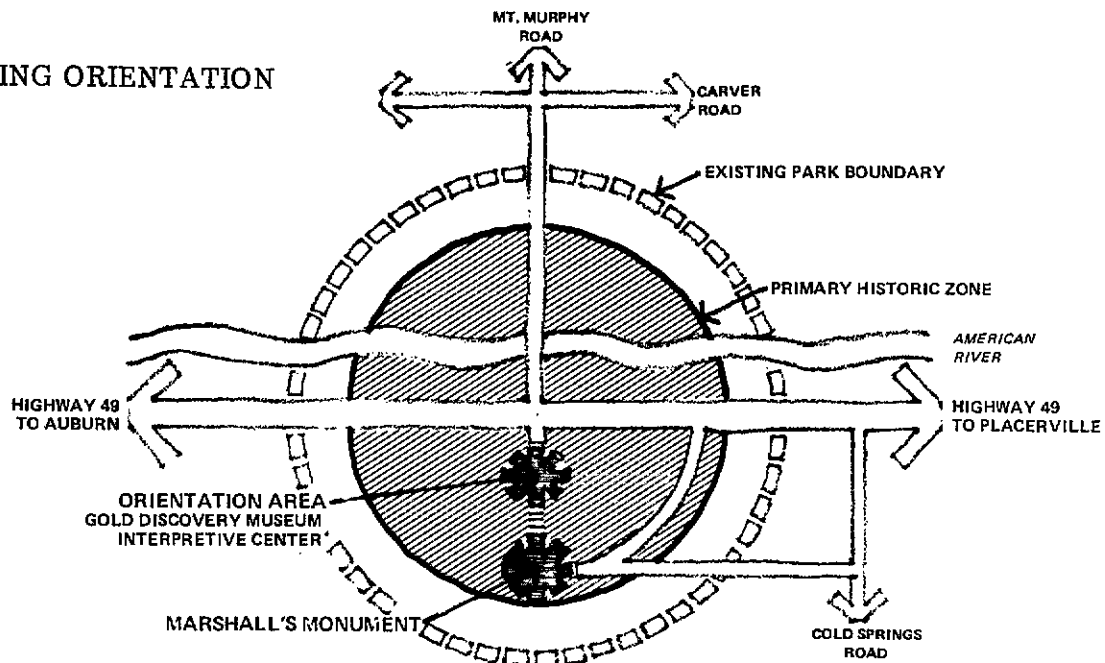
On their arrival, many visitors do not enter the museum, which provides park brochures and other information about the park. This situation adds to the visitor's confusion and misunderstanding of what there is to see and do, and what fees are required for the use of park facilities.

Operation hours of the museum are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The park is open until dusk. Coloma provides a pleasant escape from the valley fog and heat. During the summer months many people travel through the area in the evening when it is cooler, requiring outdoor orientation and interpretive facilities to be available to tell the most important messages when the museum is closed.

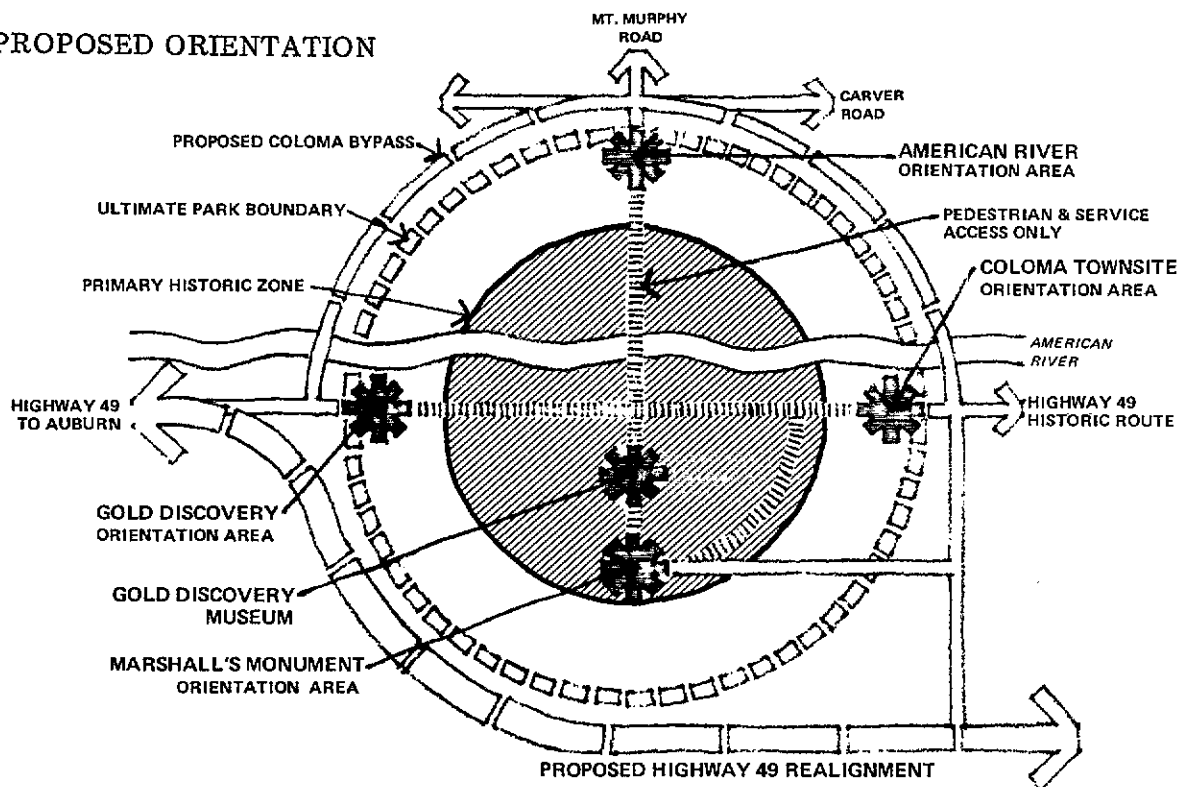
This plan is to develop four outdoor orientation areas to introduce visitors to the park at major parking areas or park entrances. Each would include a map of the park identifying historic features and park facilities, an explanation of important rules and regulations, and a schedule of activities (see Visitor Orientation diagrams, fig. 9). Although each

Figure 9
VISITOR ORIENTATION

EXISTING ORIENTATION



PROPOSED ORIENTATION



orientation area would specialize in a brief historic interpretation of its immediate area, a general overview of the park would be provided so that visitors would not necessarily have to visit each area.

These orientation areas will be located near proposed parking areas and will be related to the prime interpretive theme of its surrounding area (see General Plan map). They should be designed with appropriate natural materials in keeping with the historic appearance of the park.

Gold Discovery Orientation Area: This area, at the north park entrance from Highway 49, will orient the visitor to the Gold Discovery Museum and historic features and facilities throughout the park. A self-guided interpretive trail will lead to the gold discovery site and will contain orientation and interpretive facilities such as outdoor display panels (or kiosk), sun shelters, benches, and appropriate signing. Parking in this area will be expanded to make up for spaces removed from the parking lot in the Sutter's Mill area.

Coloma Townsite Orientation Area: This area will be located near Main Street at the south end of Highway 49. Its purpose is to orient the visitor to the Coloma townsite and interpret existing historic features and the historical background of this area. Interpretive displays will be developed outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, along with a visitor parking area.

Marshall's Monument Orientation Area: This proposed area is an expansion of the existing interpretive display panels at James Marshall Historical Monument. This site currently serves as the first arrival point for many park visitors and contains parking for about 35 cars. The gold discovery site and Coloma Townsite can be seen from this area. This area will orient visitors to major parking and day-use areas, the museum, and various points of interest throughout the park. Locations of interpretive and hiking trails will also be identified.

American River Orientation Area: If the Coloma Bypass Road is built, an orientation area will be developed on the north side of the river, along with proposed parking and picnic areas. This area will orient the visitor to the gold discovery site and Coloma Townsite areas. Direct access to those areas and the museum is provided across the existing bridge (proposed for pedestrian and service traffic only). Interpretation subjects will include gold discovery, historical background on Coloma bridges, commercial development in 1849, and the South Fork of the American River.

There are two potential sites for this orientation area. The preferred location is on private property adjacent to the park, south of Mt. Murphy Road. A second site is immediately north on park property known as the Pleasant Flat area. Unlike the preferred location, this site would require considerable native tree planting to screen development from the historic area.

Gold Discovery Museum: This facility will continue to serve as the main interpretive center and park museum. As well as providing a protected display area for valuable artifacts, it fulfills a vital role in introducing the visitor to the complete stories of the gold rush and Coloma. When the other orientation areas are developed, its visitor orientation function will become secondary.

Circulation

State Highway 49

Traffic on Highway 49 through Coloma's Main Street is an increasing major threat to the historic environment, the structural stability of nearby buildings, and visitor safety. Visitor and nonvisitor automobile traffic through the park's historic area is compounded by the frequent flow of logging trucks and other heavy equipment. These vehicles not only create vibrations which can seriously weaken structures along the street, but often travel at high speeds, endangering visitor safety.

Traffic is particularly hazardous because park facilities are located on both sides of Highway 49. Because nearby trees shade their cars and the highway is close to day-use areas, visitors park along the shoulders of the highway. They often cross the road without using either of the two existing crosswalks.

To eliminate these traffic problems and restore Main Street to its historic appearance, the development of alternative transportation routes will be necessary. Two distinctly different concepts have previously been proposed: (1) a realignment of Highway 49, and (2) a Coloma bypass road.

A proposed route for a realignment of Highway 49 from Placerville to Coloma was adopted by the California Highway Commission in 1964. This route would eliminate a significant amount of nonvisitor traffic through the park. However, to eliminate all vehicles from Main Street, the construction of an additional bypass road will be necessary.

The "Coloma bypass road" concept, initiated in 1969 by the Department of Parks and Recreation, would provide for local transportation to and from areas near the park. At that time a potential alignment was identified for a future bypass road to relieve the park of through traffic. Since then, a considerable increase in both visitor and nonvisitor traffic has made this proposal even more necessary.



Traffic on Coloma's Main Street is an increasing major threat to the historic environment

This plan recommends that a Coloma bypass road be developed to satisfy the following goals and objectives for the park:

- (1) Reduce the impact of motor vehicles in the park, specifically, in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest
- (2) Improve the existing circulation system and visitor control throughout the park
- (3) Improve access to the park and private lands, for their future management, protection, and development
- (4) Enhance the visitor's experience and the visual quality of the historic areas
- (5) Provide additional protection for environmental, recreational, and cultural resources in Coloma

Potential routes for the Coloma bypass road are identified on the map titled "Potential Circulation Routes." The alignment for Route "A" would require crossing the river at two points, as an extension of Sacramento Street and as a connection to Highway 49 at the park's north boundary. Route "B" would eliminate the north bridge crossing, requiring traffic to continue further around the river. This map intends only to show the concept for potential circulation routes, and cannot propose these or any other specific routes outside existing state ownership. Since this road would either be a state or county route, efforts for its construction must be coordinated with the Department of Transportation, El Dorado County, the State Transportation Commission, and other related public agencies.

This plan considers the possibility that this road may not be built in the near future and proposes that "no parking zones" be established along Main Street as a temporary measure to help eliminate the current problems of visitor safety and resource protection. Parking should be prohibited on the narrow shoulders of Highway 49 near the museum and picnic area. A restricted time zone would be required near the post office until this service is discontinued. Although this plan recommends that no parking be allowed outside designated parking areas, temporary parking could be allowed in areas where the shoulders of the road are exceptionally wide. The long-range proposal is to eliminate all vehicle traffic and restore Main Street to simulate its historic appearance during the gold rush period.

County and Park Roads

With the exception of Highway 49, Monument Road (State Highway 153), and the park road from Marshall's Monument to High Street, all roads bordering the park are owned and maintained by El Dorado County. On completion of the acquisition program (see Potential Park Additions, p. 83), three of these roads - Mt. Murphy Road, High Street, and Church Street - will be in the park.

Although traffic control along these roads is adequate now, increasing visitor attendance may soon make more regulation of street parking and automobile access necessary. If traffic increases to a point where it interferes with pedestrian circulation, then through traffic may be eliminated on High Street and Church Street. Once the Coloma bypass road is completed, the segment of Mt. Murphy Road from Carver Road to Main Street should be restricted to pedestrian, service, and nonmotorized vehicle use.

Traffic will be eliminated on the park road from Marshall's Monument to High Street. This route will be used for pedestrian and service traffic only.

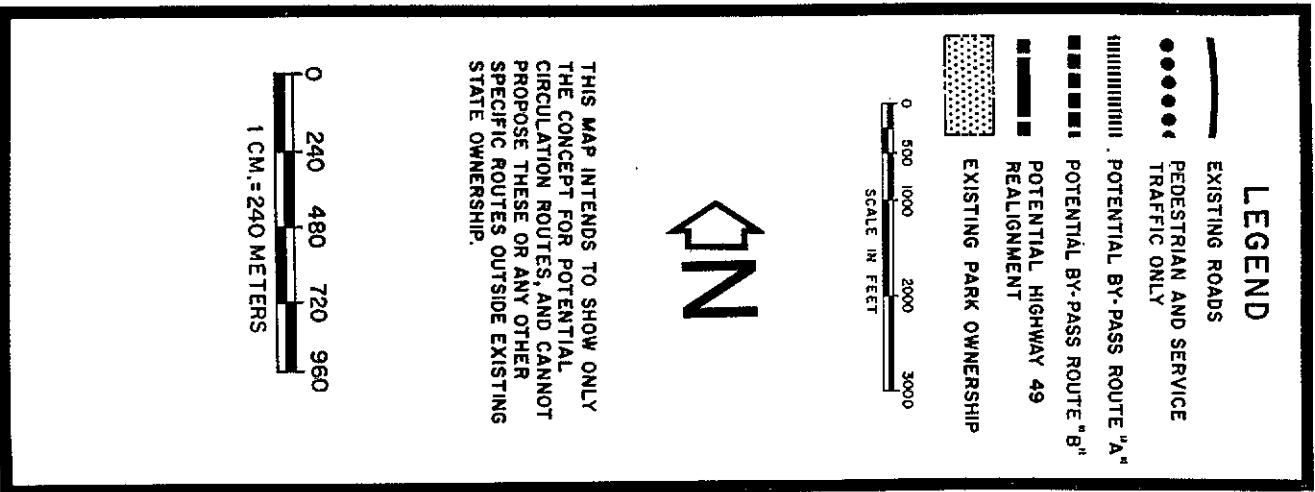
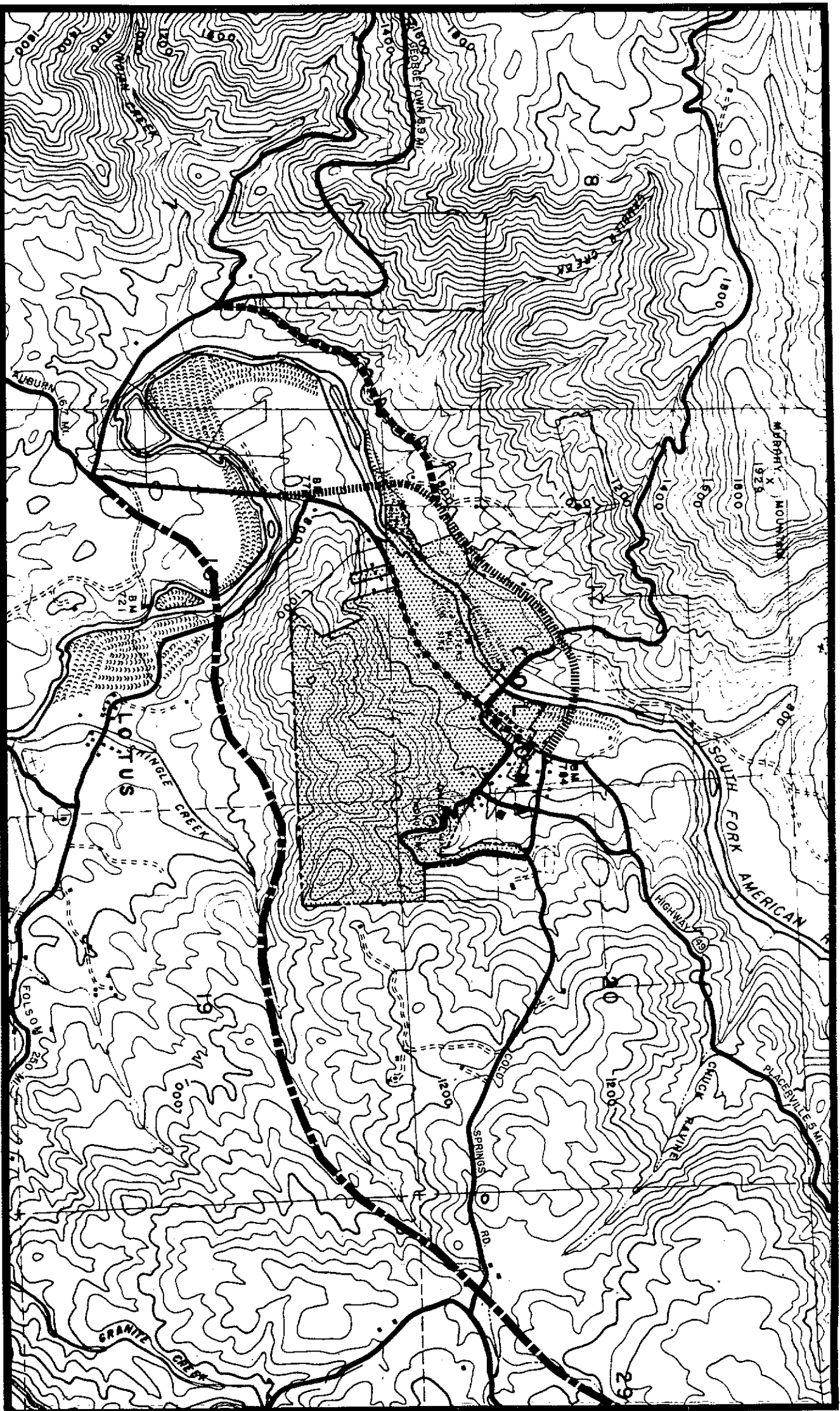


FIGURE
10

POTENTIAL CIRCULATION ROUTES

SHEET NO. 16694	DRAWING NO. 16694	MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY STATE HISTORIC PARK POTENTIAL CIRCULATION ROUTES	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED
			APPROVED _____ DATE _____				DRAWN
							CHECKED

LEGEND

— EXISTING PARK BOUNDARY

- - - PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARY

..... ZONE OF PRIMARY CULTURAL INTEREST

LAND USE AREA

□ PRIME INTER-
PRETIVE AREAS

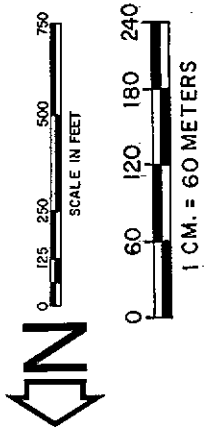
▤ DAY-USE PICNIC

▦ RIVER RECREATION

□ OPEN SPACE

▧ ADMINISTRATIVE
& MAINTENANCE

▨ PARKING



ACQUISITION PROPOSALS SHOWN HERE ARE INTENDED FOR LONG-RANGE PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT A COMMITMENT FOR ACQUISITION

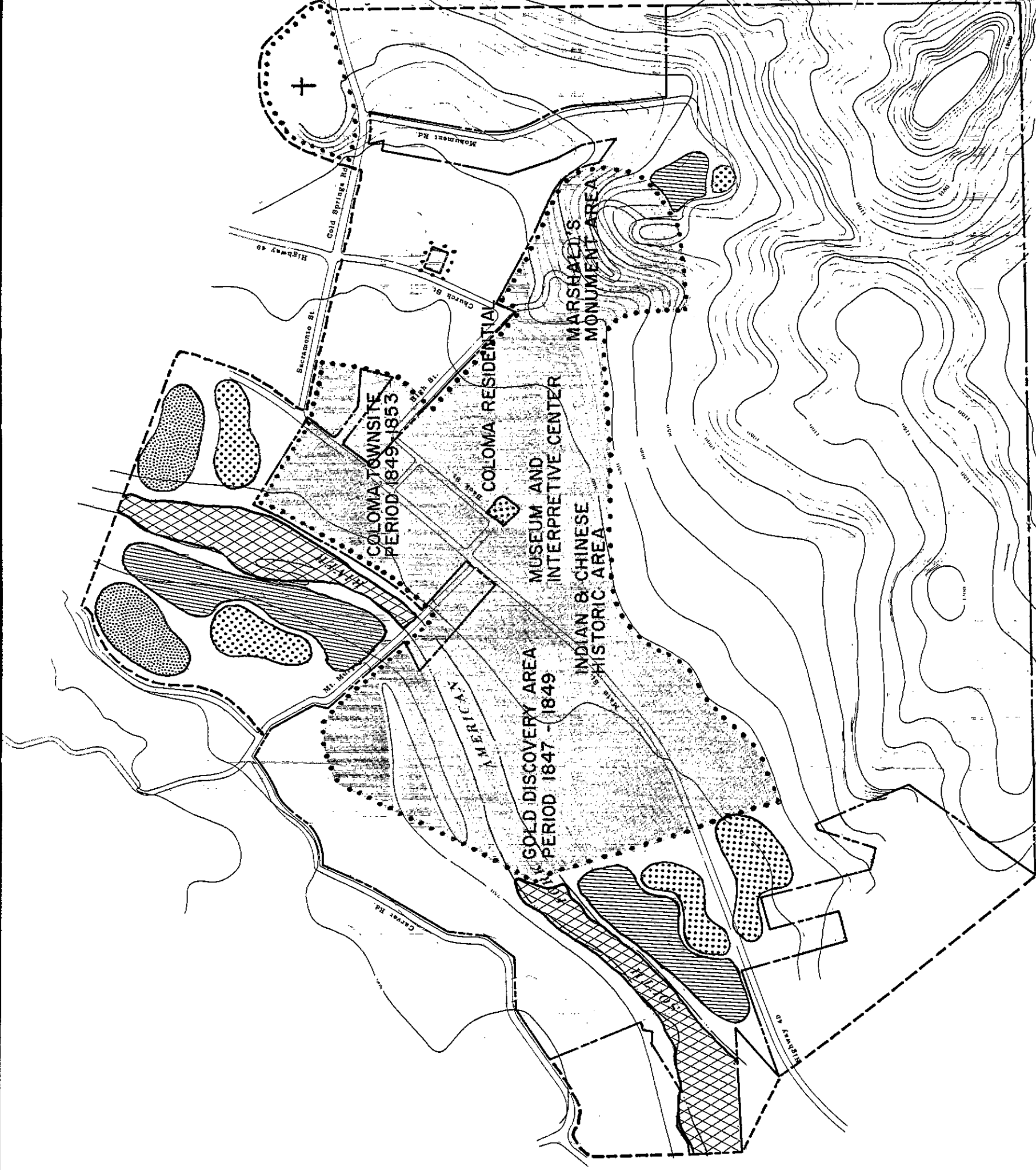


FIGURE 11

PROPOSED LAND USE

Proposed Land Use Plan

The Proposed Land Use Plan is a graphic and narrative planning evaluation that identifies areas of proposed uses in the unit. This plan is based on the unit's classification and purpose, resource sensitivity to certain uses, resource management policies, and public comments received during the public involvement program.

The Proposed Land Use Plan (see map) is based on an analysis of the park's historic character and recreation use. This map includes all property within the proposed park boundary and includes the following categories.

Interpretive Areas

There are six principal interpretive areas identified in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest.

Gold Discovery Area: This area will interpret the historic period 1847-1849 - the time of the gold discovery and early pioneer settlement. Development will be limited to outdoor interpretive exhibits and displays of placer mining and Sutter's sawmill operation. Modern intrusions such as existing parking and restroom facilities will ultimately be removed. Activities such as gold panning and rafting will be restricted to specific areas to preserve cultural and natural resources and the historic integrity of this area.

Coloma Townsite: A Main Street historic corridor will be established for interpreting Coloma's commercial activity in the period 1849-1853. The intent here is not to completely reconstruct a living gold rush community, but to preserve and interpret key historic structures and sites of Coloma's earliest development. When a limited reconstruction program can be implemented, existing nonhistoric structures will be removed. These reconstructions will be used as house exhibits and interpretive concessions. Traffic will ultimately be removed from this area.

Marshall's Monument Area: This area will continue to be used to interpret the history of James W. Marshall and as an overlook of the townsite and gold discovery area. Proposed development includes expanding existing interpretive panels and visitor orientation displays.

Museum and Interpretive Center: This area will continue to be used as the park's primary interpretive center and visitor orientation area. Interpretive facilities will include the Gold Discovery Museum, Miner's Cabin, and outdoor mining exhibit area.

Indian and Chinese Historic Area: This proposed area is an expansion of the existing Chinese exhibit area. The primary interpretive emphasis will be on the history and life-styles of the Indian and Chinese cultures before and shortly after the gold discovery. The grinding rocks in this area are the only remaining evidence at the park of the Southern Maidu Indians, known as the Nisenan, who settled here and gave the name Culluma (Coloma) to their village in this peaceful valley.

Coloma Residential Area: This area embraces land once occupied by private Coloma residences during the prime interpretive period. It consists primarily of open space surrounding existing residential buildings of historic appearance. Their current use as rentals and park staff housing will continue, although more controls are required over private parking and related activities visible from other areas of the park.

Day-Use Picnic Areas

All picnic areas will eventually be located outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. They will be developed so as not to be intrusions, and they will be concentrated in areas that do not affect the park's historic objectives. Adequate screening by native vegetation will be established. Orientation areas will be developed in these picnic areas to provide information on available interpretive and hiking trails and points of interest throughout the park.

River Recreation Areas

This proposed land use will limit recreation activities such as gold panning and rafting access to designated areas along the banks of the South Fork of the American River. Restriction of these activities will eliminate the conflict between recreation use and preserving the historic integrity of the gold discovery site.

Open Space Areas

This land will serve as a buffer around the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest to protect historic features from modern development on nearby private lands. Proposed development in these open space areas will be limited to interpretive and hiking trails.

Administrative and Maintenance Areas

The existing administrative headquarters, centrally located in the park and close to major roads and the interpretive center-museum, will continue to be used for administrative office functions. Due to its location in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, operational and service vehicle parking will be limited to minimize its visual intrusion on the historic setting.

Principal maintenance and service areas will eventually be developed outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. They will be located close to modern roads with available access to all park facilities. The visual and functional characteristics of these areas are important considerations for site planning and design of facilities in these areas.

For further details of these proposals, refer to the Operation Facilities, table 5, p. 47.

Parking Areas

All principal visitor parking areas will eventually be located outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. They will be developed to minimize their intrusion. Visitor parking will be located close to major access roads on the perimeter of the ultimate park boundary. These areas must satisfy the visitors' need for general parking close to the main historic area and day-use picnic areas. Parking for the handicapped and elderly will be provided near the museum, which is centrally located and near all park facilities. Existing parking capacity will be increased by about 300 spaces. Two new parking areas are planned in addition to expanding existing parking outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

This development plan was derived from criteria established in the Resource Element and Proposed Land Use and Facilities section. The plan's purpose is to determine suitable areas for interpretation, recreation, and operations facilities compatible with the Declaration of Purpose and resource management policies of this historic park unit.

The General Plan (fig. 13) illustrates the proposed development plan. This plan identifies general routes and appropriate land areas for major elements such as parking, picnicking, and administrative and maintenance facilities.

The plan for implementing these proposals is outlined in the Program for Development section (p. 79). Its intent is to identify a practical and logical sequence for implementing the proposals of this plan through a phased program of development.

The following section will discuss in detail the proposed development at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. For convenience this development is divided into three categories: (1) Historical Interpretation, (2) Recreational Use, and (3) Operations Facilities. Since the primary purpose of Marshall Gold is historical interpretation, the greatest development emphasis is in this category.

Historical Interpretation

The Interpretive Facilities Chart (fig. 12) identifies structures and features to be included in the interpretive program. Each is listed with dates of existence, historic use, current use, historic period, and recommendations for appropriate interpretive methods, themes, and development status. Potential reconstructions have also been included.

Interpretive Period and Themes

The Declaration of Purpose defines the primary interpretive period for Marshall Gold Discovery SHP as 1847 through 1852, the time of the discovery and the ensuing gold rush.



Interpretive panel

A secondary period of interpretation from 1853 to 1948, would deal mainly with the results of the gold rush, development of gold mining, and the growth and decline of the community of Coloma. A significant element in both primary and secondary periods is the Native American experience at Coloma.

Table 6 lists the primary and secondary themes to be interpreted at this unit and a detailed description of these themes follows.

Table 6

Interpretive Themes

Primary Theme

The discovery of gold and the ensuing gold rush

Establishment of Sutter's Mill on the American River

The discovery of gold by James Marshall

Development of placer mining techniques

Far-reaching results of the gold rush - California statehood, railroads, Civil War, etc.

Secondary Themes

James Marshall and his continuing contributions to Coloma

Geology of the "Mother Lode"

Gold and gold mining techniques

Native American culture

Community of Coloma, its growth and decline

Mining town to agricultural community; ethnic populations

Impact of the gold rush on the landscape

Mining law

Recent history - public recognition of Coloma's historic significance

Primary Theme: The discovery of gold and the ensuing gold rush

Establishment of Sutter's Mill on the American River:

John Sutter's reasons for establishing a sawmill in the Sierra Nevada foothills operated by his foreman James Marshall are an important part of this theme. The methods and materials used in constructing the water-powered mill, its operation, and its eventual fate should be included.

Various people - Indians, veterans of the Mormon Battalion, and others - were hired by Sutter and Marshall to work on the mill. Who they were, how they lived, and how the discovery of gold affected their lives should be interpreted.

The discovery of gold by James Marshall:

The events of January 24, 1848, and the people involved should be detailed as the beginning of the gold rush in California. As the news spread, fortune seekers came from all parts of the country and world by any means available. The harsh conditions early miners faced and the new problems that accompanied the growing rush for gold should be explained.

Development of placer mining techniques:

Placer mining was back-breaking work which used gravity to concentrate heavier materials, such as gold, by washing away lighter materials. The various methods of working river gravels, such as pan, cradle (or rocker), sluice, and long tom should be described.

Far-reaching results of the gold rush:

The gold rush not only sparked the swift and diversified development of California, but it also affected the United States and the world. This theme would include the economics of gold and its impact on the Civil War, railroad construction, and other industries and developments.

Secondary Themes

James Marshall and his continuing contributions to Coloma:

James Marshall's life - who he was, what he did, and what motivated him - is an integral part of the gold rush story. Background information should be given to provide a better understanding of Marshall, his later life, and his accomplishments in Coloma.

Geology of the "Mother Lode":

An explanation of the geological origin of gold and the unique character of the Sierra Nevada foothills should be offered. Important to the understanding of placer mining would be a discussion of the distribution and redistribution of gold by weathering, streams, and rivers.

Gold and gold mining techniques:

Gold mining methods developed because of the properties of gold and where it was found. The methods miners developed to extract gold from low-grade gravels and from its source in quartz veins should be explained. Also, interpretation should include how the technological achievements led to large-scale mining operations requiring greater investments.

Native American culture:

The history and life-style of the Southern Maidu, known as Nisenan, will be interpreted. This would include all aspects of their social organization, religious beliefs and practices, material culture, food sources and preparation, their relationship with other groups, and the adverse effect of the gold rush on their way of life.

Community of Coloma, its growth and waning:

The rapid growth of Coloma from a town of crude tents to "Queen of the Mines," and its special significance for many miners, should be explained. Mining was the reason for Coloma's birth, but agriculture was responsible for its economic survival. Attention should be given to the diversity of Coloma's ethnic populations.

Impact of the gold rush on the landscape:

Miners cleared the hillsides of vegetation for fuel and lumber. They excavated any area that showed promise of containing gold. The arriving settlers usually brought a part of home with them, introducing many nonnative plants that flourished. The hillsides of Coloma are laced with ditches that were used by miners and farmers alike.

Mining law:

Miners developed their own system of justice. Laws enacted during the gold rush were used around the world and are reflected in the mining laws of today.

Recent history - public recognition of Coloma's historic significance:

The first public recognition of Coloma came in May of 1890, when the James Marshall Monument was dedicated. The discovery of the mill's original timbers in the 1920s was followed by national and state recognition of Coloma as a significant historical site.

Interpretive Methods and Facilities

Due to the many messages to be presented and the variation of cultural and natural resources at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP, various interpretive methods will be used.

The following outline will discuss the various interpretive facilities which now exist and identify their potential and the necessity for providing additional facilities for interpreting the major themes at the park.

Gold Discovery Museum

A modern park museum and interpretive center is located in the center of the historic area. This facility now serves to orient visitors to the various historic features and available facilities throughout the park. Exhibits in the museum tell the complete story of the California gold rush and history of Coloma from the pre-gold rush period to today. An audio-visual room is used for regularly conducted programs.

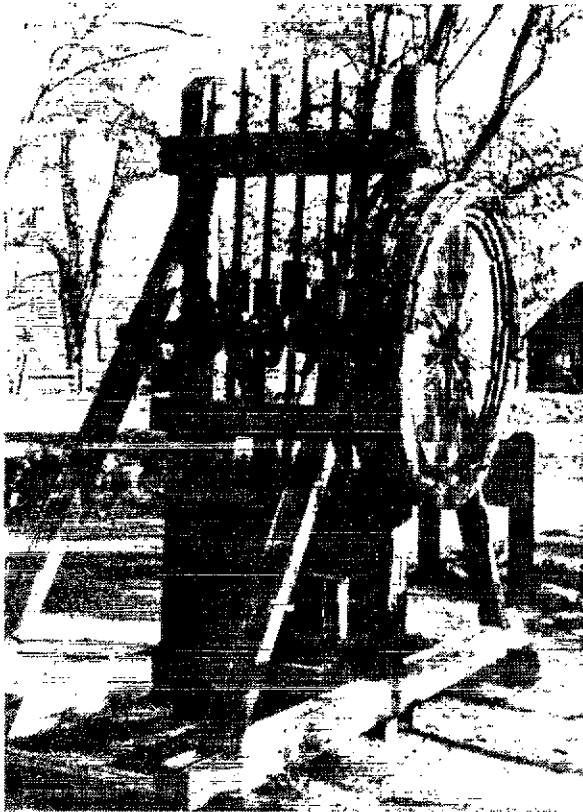
This building appears to some people as a present-day visual intrusion into the historic area. Modifications should be made to the building's exterior to bring its character in line with other buildings and make it compatible with the historic scene.

The Gold Discovery Museum now fulfills a vital role in introducing the visitor to the complete story of the gold rush and of Coloma - what it was, and why. Personalized services, along with films, models, and artifacts, will be used to interpret those themes. Various free and sales publications should be available to provide more detailed information to interested visitors. A teacher's guide should be available to all group leaders and periodically reviewed and revised.

Exhibits and displays will be used in various locations to interpret both cultural and natural features throughout the park. The existing interpretive program will be expanded to include exhibit areas near the gold discovery site and James Marshall's Historical Monument.



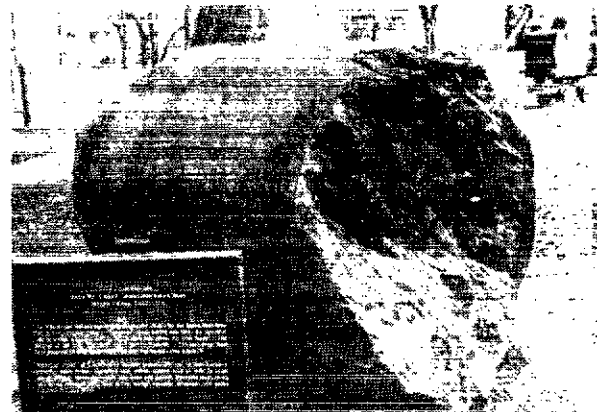
Exhibit in the museum that shows Coloma as it looked around 1857



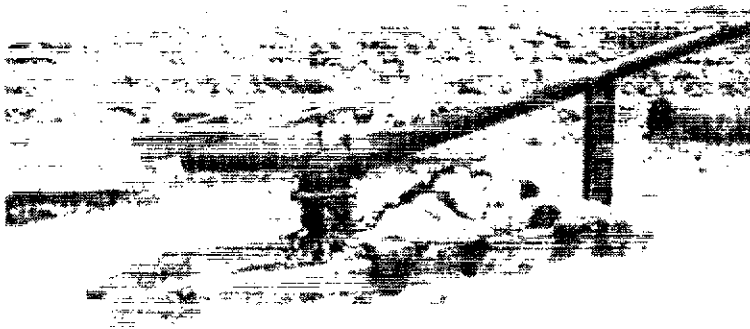
Electrically operated stamp mill from Sutter Creek, an exhibit at the park



Mining equipment used in areas other than Coloma, are also displayed at the park



Drill core section from Grass Valley, displayed at the park in the mining exhibit area



Hydraulic mining nozzle

Mining Exhibit Area

Various pieces of mining equipment will be displayed in a central location between the museum and Chinese stores. This outdoor exhibit will show the historical development of the different gold mining methods, with major emphasis on placer mining techniques. Artifacts will be displayed in such a way to clearly distinguish to park visitors which methods were used at Coloma during the prime interpretive period.



Coloma - 1857 - View from the north side of the American River

Coloma Townsite

Low-profile panels along Main Street will identify which buildings existed on these sites during the primary interpretive period. The panels will include a brief historical sketch of each building.

Mining Camp Scene

A typical mining camp scene of 1848-49 will be established in the Gold Discovery area as a setting for "living history" activities. This would entail constructing the various types of living quarters used by the miners, such as tents, brush huts, and cabins. An exhibit area will be developed to display and demonstrate the various methods of placer mining, such as the pan, rocker, sluice, and long tom. Visitor participation and use of this apparatus should be encouraged under the supervision of park personnel.



Miners at work with long toms

Marshall's Monument

Existing interpretive panels and displays near James Marshall's Historical Monument should be expanded. The monument is the first stop for many park visitors, which makes it necessary to orient people there to various park facilities and historic sites. Information should include a park map and brochures for self-guided tours, in addition to information on the various interpretive themes.

Sutter's Mill Exhibit

One of the most popular exhibits at the unit is the replica of the original Sutter's Sawmill, reconstructed in the gold discovery area. The mill's present location is adequately protected from possible high water damage and is easily accessible to park visitors from the highway and historic core area. Demonstrations of the working sawmill (currently operated by electric power) are given for groups at scheduled times on weekends. Other exhibits include a display of the original mill timbers and Mormon Cabin exhibit.

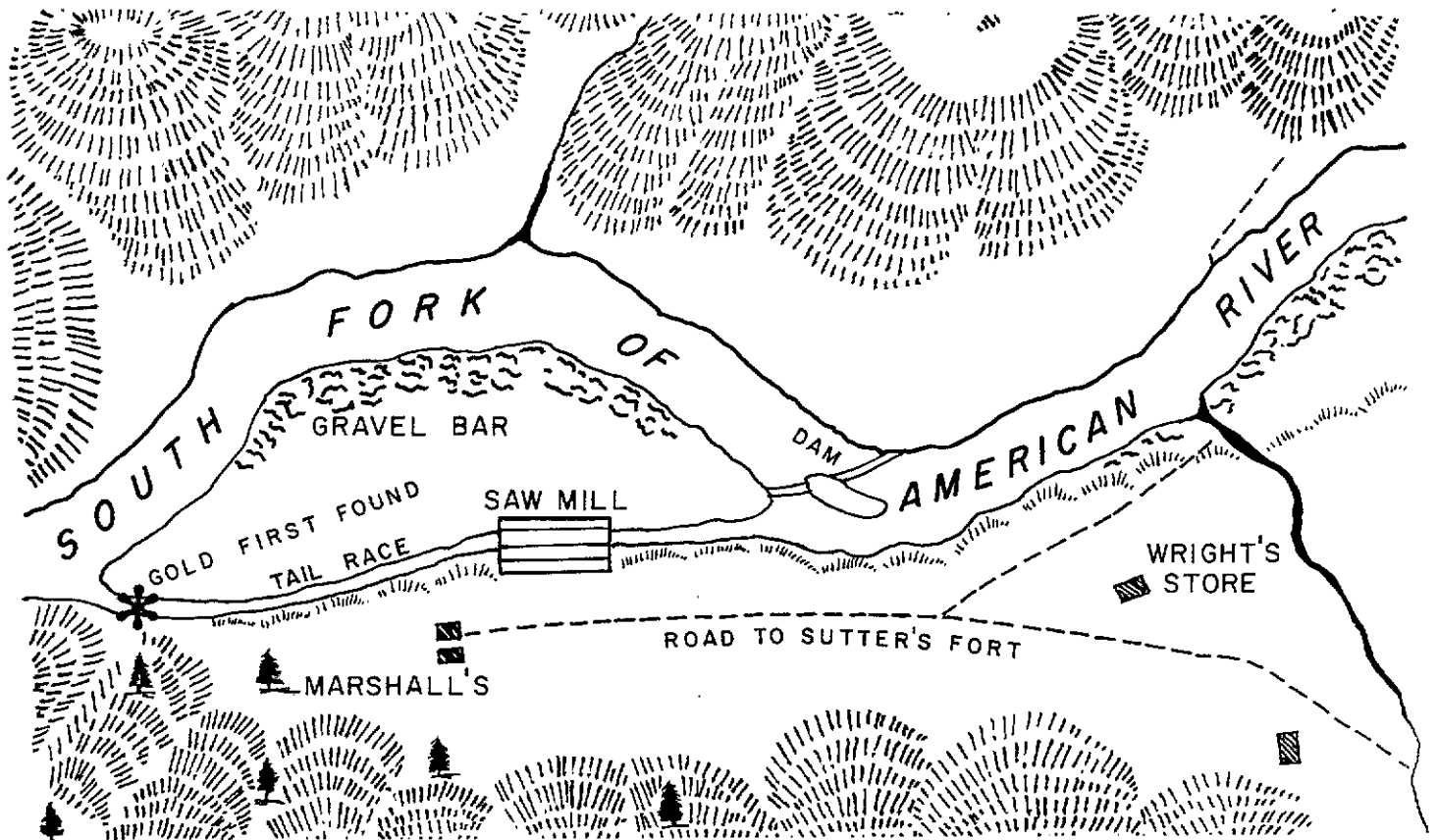
The long-range proposal of this plan is to relocate Sutter's Mill to its original historic site. This development includes a realignment of the river course to its historic position, stabilization of the river bank, excavation and removal of remaining mill timbers, and restoration of the mill tailrace.

This plan recommends that a study be made to determine the feasibility of relocating Sutter's Mill to its historic site. The following should be considered before development occurs:

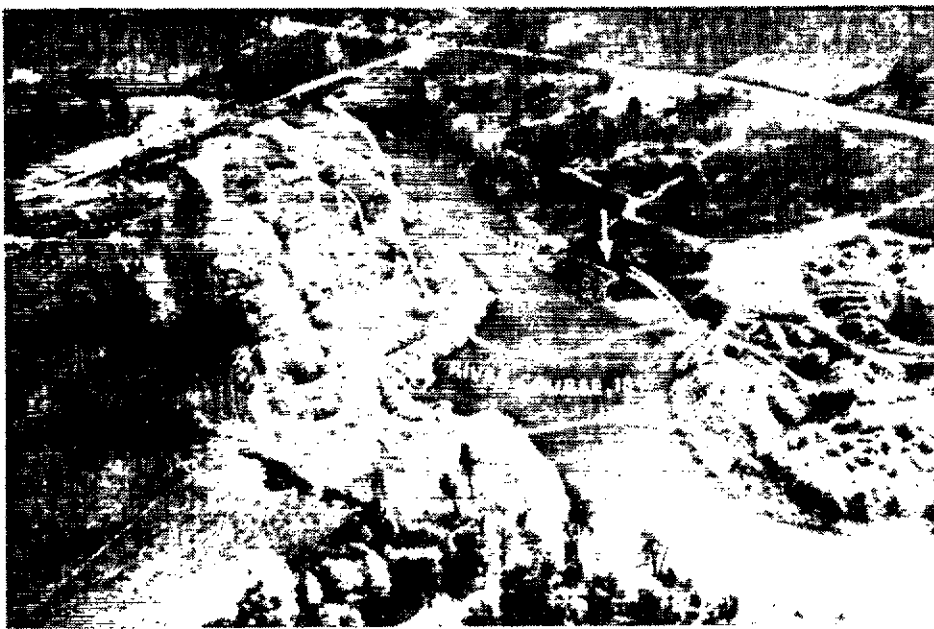
- (1) Coordination with the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Water Resources, and local agencies would be required to reestablish the gravel bar as part of the river alignment.
- (2) Efforts to permanently reestablish the gravel bar could be difficult and costly.
- (3) Before relocating the river to its ca. 1850 location, a study is recommended to determine if the river banks immediately downstream would be affected as a result of the realignment.
- (4) Historic placement and operation of the mill may require a dam. The dam would be constructed to appear like an 1849-vintage structure. This would limit rafting through the area and raise the water level upstream, possibly affecting the development on the upstream banks.
- (5) The entrance to the millrace would be screened to prevent accidental entry by rafters or swimmers.
- (6) Storms which have occurred in recent years, from 1955 through 1964, have caused increases in the river stage of as much as 20 feet. This means that under similar conditions, the water could rise near the bottom of the "A" frame of the mill.
- (7) The existing dams and proposed dams (SOFAR project) would not have sufficient storage capacity to provide flood control protection for these conditions. The rains which caused the 1960 flood fell between Coloma and the hydroelectric dams. Floods of this nature are virtually unaffected by the dams upstream.

REPRODUCTION OF MAP OF GOLD DISCOVERY SITE

Drawn by Col. R. B. Mason, Military Governor of California. To accompany report dated September 10, 1848 to United States President J. K. Polk.



Map of area as it looked in 1848



Area as it looks now, with original river course indicated

- (8) Flood flows would carry debris and could likely damage the mill.
- (9) Typical runoff would carry silt, requiring annual clean-up and repair.

Until the feasibility of implementing this proposal is determined, the alternative of bringing water through the existing sawmill should be considered. The following could occur:

- o Mill operation could continue under electric power with the addition of low-level water moving through the tailrace.
- o Existing raceway and tailrace could be extended to simulate a more realistic appearance.
- o Interpretive exhibits in the sawmill area and at the gold discovery site could be expanded to provide the observer a clear picture of the way the areas appeared during the time of the gold discovery.

Talks on various subjects relating to the park and its interpretive themes can be given at the museum and at several on-site locations. In addition, a regularly scheduled visitor orientation presentation should be offered in the museum.

Guided walks and tours can introduce visitors to the various cultural and natural features in the park and to the people and life-styles that typified Coloma before and during the gold rush period. These services will be presented during peak periods of visitor use or to groups when special arrangements are made in advance.

Demonstrations provide an effective means of interpreting various gold mining methods.

A "living history" program should be developed for Marshall Gold Discovery SHP to give visitors some insight into what it might have been like to be in Coloma during the gold rush. Park personnel and/or trained volunteers can portray particular historical persons or fictitious characters that typify the period. Historical accuracy in all aspects of this program (information, clothing, tools, and mannerisms) must be stressed. Other potential locations for living history activities are identified in the Interpretive Facilities Chart (p. 59).

The self-guided interpretive opportunities at Marshall Gold will be expanded to include several trails and types of tours. The existing trail (.5 mile) from the discovery site to Marshall's Monument will orient the visitor to the gold discovery story. A walk through town will describe the development of Coloma from a mining town to an agricultural community. A loop trail (about 1.5 miles) will be developed through the hillside above town to interpret the impact of mining and agriculture on the landscape, as well as the natural history of the area.

Preservation, Restoration, and Reconstruction

Over the years, many of the few remaining structures at the park have undergone some maintenance. Although there are no structures in immediate danger due to lack of repairs, some work will be necessary for their future protection and to satisfy the needs of interpretation.

This plan proposes the following three methods of historic development, as defined by the State Historical Building Code:

Preservation -

The maintenance of the structure in the same physical condition as when it was acquired. Preservation aims at halting further deterioration and providing structural safety, but does not contemplate significant rebuilding. Preservation includes techniques of arresting or slowing the deterioration of a structure; improvement of structural conditions to make a structure safe, habitable, or otherwise useful; normal maintenance and minor repairs that do not change or adversely affect the fabric or appearance of a structure.

Restoration -

The process of accurately recovering, by the removal of later work and the replacement of missing earlier work, the form and details of a structure, together with its setting, as it appeared at a particular period of time.

Reconstruction -

The process of rebuilding a nonextant structure or portion of a structure to its original appearance through archival and archeological investigation. Although parts of the original structure are sometimes included in the reconstruction, the process usually involves new construction materials.

Preservation

Certain historic structures in the park will be preserved, with particular emphasis on the following historic ruins:

Bell and Allen Store: This brick structure will be retained as a ruin and stabilized by inconspicuous means. The existing methods of structural support should be improved. Access should be provided inside the structure to enable viewing by park visitors.

Old Stone Jail: This structure will be stabilized and exhibited as a historic ruin. The department will continue to monitor the deterioration of this stone ruin and take necessary preservation measures for its future protection and for the safety of park visitors.

Restoration

This plan proposes that the following historic structures be restored as close as possible to their original appearances and historic uses as outlined in the Interpretive Facilities Chart (see p. 59).

Bekeart's Gunsmith Shop: This building could be used for exhibits or an interpretive concession as a gunsmith shop.

Coloma Grays Armory: This building should be restored as a two-story building and used to interpret the story of military activity in California during the Civil War.



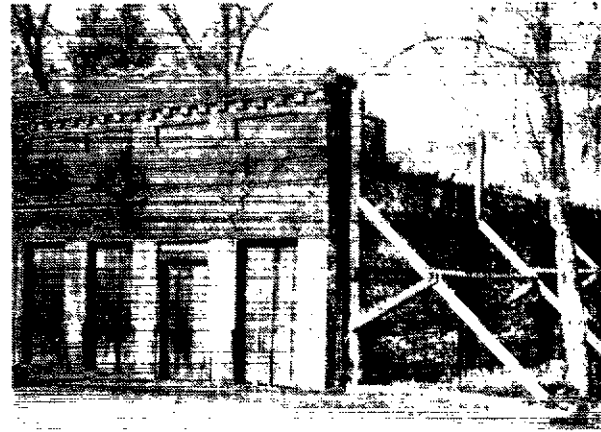
*Sierra Nevada House, built in 1850 -
proposed for reconstruction*



Vernon House barn, restored



Coloma Grays Armory, to be restored



*Bell and Allen Store ruin - 1855 ,
to be preserved as a historic ruin*



*Bekeart's Gunsmith Shop - Built in
1852, this building is one of the oldest
buildings still standing at Coloma*



*Weller House - originally constructed
in 1852, proposed for restoration as a
house museum*

Weller House: This building could be used as a house museum typical of an early residence that existed during the primary interpretive period. Further investigation is necessary to determine the extent of building modification since its construction in 1852.

Reconstruction

The department's Resource Management Directive No. 48 limits reconstruction at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP to features that existed in the prime interpretive period (1847-1852). The primary emphasis of the reconstruction program will be on structures representing the earliest development during the period of the gold discovery. Reconstructions are proposed for two of the five interpretive areas in the park - the Gold Discovery Area and Coloma Townsite.

Gold Discovery Area: This plan proposes, as the highest priority, to reconstruct the mining camp scene and pioneer settlement, as it appeared during 1847-48, to include:

- (1) Double log cabin
- (2) Marshall's first cabin
- (3) Early miners' shelters such as tents, shanties, lean-tos, and others

These structures, in addition to outdoor interpretive exhibits previously mentioned in this section, are necessary for a full interpretation of the events that occurred at the time of the gold discovery.

Coloma Townsite: The primary period for interpretation of the Main Street historic corridor (Coloma Townsite) is from 1849 through 1852. The intent here is to limit reconstruction to those few key historic structures that existed as a direct result of the gold discovery. Main Street underwent rapid change following this period. Coloma was adjusting to the transformation of its economy from mining to agriculture. The hotels, restaurants, and saloons essential for the mining town of the early 1850s made way for the blacksmith shops and general stores of the farming village of the late 1800s.

Historical surveys of Coloma's Main Street have identified numerous historical and archeological features in this area, although few historic structures still remain as evidence of the extensive building development Coloma experienced during the 1850s.

During the earliest period of Coloma's development, Main Street was crowded with stores, hotels, gambling halls, restaurants, and saloons. Although some of these uses would be inappropriate for park use, their representation is essential for the accurate interpretation of the Coloma Townsite.

Two studies have been done, but further research is necessary before a comprehensive reconstruction program can be implemented. This research is necessary to identify accurate locations and authentic appearances of several key historic structures that existed during the prime interpretive period.

The names and historical uses have been identified for 16 buildings that existed during the 1847-1852 period along Main Street (see Interpretive Facilities Chart, p.59). Since many of these buildings served similar functions, it will not be necessary to reconstruct all these structures. Instead, the reconstruction program will consist of the minimum number of buildings necessary to depict the various life-styles of early Coloma. It is important that the number of buildings be limited to a select few, so that this reconstruction does not blur the primary focus on the gold discovery site.

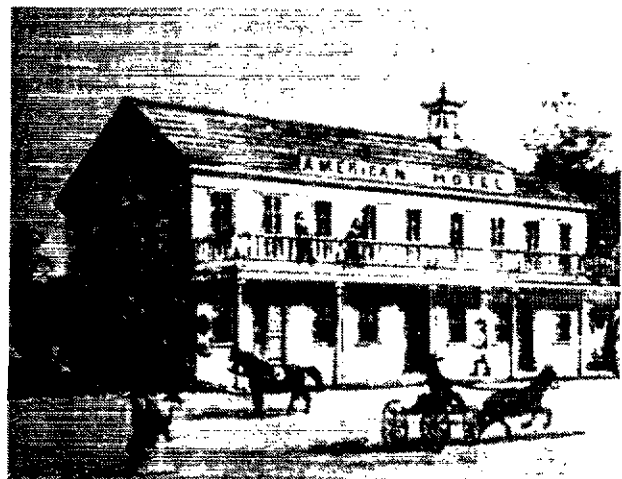


Above: Coloma Townsite during the 1850s

Buildings that existed on Coloma's Main Street during the prime interpretive period.



Holmes' Peoples Cash Store



American Hotel

Among the potential reconstructions listed in table 7, the Sierra Nevada Hotel, Adams and Co. Express Office, and Holmes' Peoples Cash Store are the most significant to the town's history and should have the highest priority. Further research may identify other buildings of this period which should also be included as potential reconstructions.

Table 7
Potential Reconstructions

	<u>Date of Existence</u>	<u>Use</u>
Sierra Nevada House	1850-1902	Hotel and Restaurant
- Winter's and Miners' Hotel	1849-1877	Hotel/Restaurant/Saloon
The American House	1852/53-1856	Hotel
Nichol's House - Coloma Post Office	1852/53-1857	Hotel
- Wintermantel's Miners' Hotel	1849-1867	Hotel
- Wells Fargo Express Office	1852-1857	Bank
- Adams & Co. Express Office	1850-1855	Bank
Holmes' Peoples Cash Store	1852/53-1856	General Store
Merrill Meat Market	1851-1873	Market
New York Bakery	1852/53-?	Bakery
Miners' Drug Store	1852/53-1865	Drug Store
Coloma Livery Stable	1852/53-?	Livery Stable
- Hook and Ladder House No. 1	1852/53-?	Fire Station
The Virginia Saloon, Fruit, and Confectionary Store	1849-1856	Saloon/Market
Seeley's Jewelry Store	1849-1865	Jewelry
El Dorado Bath House and Shaving Saloon	1852/53-?	Bath House & Shaving Saloon
Wright Store?		
Sierra Nevada Hotel?		
County Courthouse?		

To determine the priorities and selection of potential buildings for a specific reconstruction program, the following should be considered:

- (1) The relation of the historic significance of the original building to the gold discovery and/or the early development of Coloma
- (2) The building's historic use or potential use for interpreting the primary themes with exhibits or interpretive concessions
- (3) The potential use of the historic building for satisfying the needs of the unit's operations
- (4) The accuracy and authenticity of historical information on the building
- (5) The building's size and appearance
- (6) The building's reconstruction cost
- (7) The potential for modifying the appearance or present use of existing buildings as an alternative to reconstruction

Removal of Modern Intrusions

When considering retaining existing structures, we should weigh their potential for modifications in use or appearance which make them compatible with other buildings of the prime interpretive period.

To improve the quality of interpretation in the various interpretive areas, the removal of these structures is proposed:

Carpenter Shop: Built in 1945, this concrete block structure is a visual intrusion on the Coloma Townsite. It will be removed when its various maintenance functions can be located elsewhere.

Concession Building: Located in the Chinese Historic Area, it has contained vending machines, but is now vacant. It has no historical or architectural significance.

Pioneer Building: Constructed in 1948, it was used for exhibits before the museum was built. It is now vacant and its appearance is not in character with other structures in the Chinese Historic Area.

It may be necessary to remove certain buildings in the Coloma Townsite Area along Main Street before reconstruction can occur. The following criteria will be used to determine if a building should be removed:

- (1) If the building is located on the site of a proposed reconstruction
- (2) If the building did not exist during the prime interpretive period, 1847-1852
- (3) If the building is not significant esthetically, architecturally, or historically to the prime period
- (4) If the building is a safety hazard and the cost of repair is excessive
- (5) If the building's appearance cannot be altered and its use made compatible with proposed reconstruction

The removal or relocation of certain existing structures, such as the Post Office, may be necessary when automobile traffic is removed from Main Street and access to these buildings is limited.



Coloma Post Office and private residence located on Main Street

Recreational Use

This section includes proposed recreation facilities and allowable park activities for Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park which are compatible with the unit's classification and declared purpose (see General Plan, fig. 13).

Proposed Recreation Facilities

Since the unit is classified as a historic park, recreation facilities have been kept to a minimum. This proposed development consists primarily of relocating existing picnic facilities and related activities from prime historic areas, and expanding facilities in areas which do not affect the historic objectives of the park.

North Beach Picnic Area

This area now provides facilities for picnicking and parking near the river. Should the need arise, this plan proposes to expand existing facilities to accommodate future recreation demands and the relocation of picnic tables from other areas of the park. The potential for restoring the historic orchards along with these picnic facilities should be considered. An additional 100-car parking area should be developed in this area to replace existing parking removed from historic areas.

The following should be considered in the future development of this area:

- (1) Shade and protection from prevailing winds in picnic and parking areas
- (2) Trail access to river for rafting and fishing
- (3) Screening of automobiles from the primary historic zone
- (4) Open space for group sports and open space activities
- (5) Access to park interpretive and hiking trails
- (6) Provision for group picnicking
- (7) Adequate parking for buses
- (8) Access for service vehicles provided via Highway 49, when automobile traffic is removed from the park



Picnic facilities currently located near the park museum

Museum Picnic Area

The present uses of picnicking and visitor parking will ultimately be removed from this area, which is in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest near the museum. All existing picnic and parking facilities will be removed, at which time facilities for these uses can be developed in other proposed areas. Portable picnic tables will be removed in the first phase of development to minimize visitor damage to natural resources.

Marshall's Monument Picnic Area

No additional day-use facilities are proposed for this area. Existing picnic and parking facilities adequately serve park visitors and provide necessary facilities for larger groups during special events and weekends. The periodic rotation or relocation of portable picnic tables should be considered as a way to reduce the impact of increased visitor use.

Park Trails

About 1.5 miles of interpretive trails now exist in the park. To develop a more comprehensive trail system, trails should be expanded by another 2.5 miles. The purposes of these new trails are to: (1) link proposed orientation areas with other park facilities, (2) provide park visitors with access to natural areas of outstanding visual qualities, (3) establish a route for self-guided tours which would interpret various historic features, and (4) provide a potential link to any expansion of El Dorado County's trail system. Currently, the only local trail recognized by the county is an informal right-of-way along Highway 49.

About 1 mile of interpretive trails will be established in the historic zone. Some of these will follow existing roads proposed for pedestrian traffic only. They will provide a route for self-guided tours, allowing park visitors to experience all the cultural and natural features without damaging these resources.

About 1.5 miles of hiking and interpretive trails should be developed through the hillside natural area of the park. Few people now enter this area due to the lack of developed trails. This area includes about 130 acres of moderately steep terrain covered with native oaks and pine. Spectacular views of Coloma and Lotus Valley can be seen from this area. This trail will provide hikers access to these areas of outstanding scenic and historic character.

Interpretation for this area could be by guided tours or limited to a hiker's brochure explaining the area's natural and cultural values. Parking and restrooms will be available

at the trailheads at the Monument and Gold Discovery areas to avoid modern intrusions in this natural area. Physical barriers may be necessary to restrict motorcycle and horse access to the trails.

Operations Facilities

Maintenance and Service Facilities

The principal maintenance and service area is now located along Main Street (Highway 49) in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. It is considered by some people to be a modern intrusion on the historic setting of this area.

The long-range proposal of this plan is to relocate these facilities to an area that better provides for park maintenance, office, and storage facilities which are compatible with the historic objectives of the park.

To determine suitable areas for future development and the relocation of maintenance and service facilities, state and private property were studied as potential sites for this development.

Two potential sites are identified which could serve as the best locations for this use in the context of plans for park operations and vehicular circulation.

- (1) The preferred site for these facilities is located on private property, southeast of Mt. Murphy Road, adjacent to the park. Although development of this site would require major acquisition and construction of a bypass road, this site is preferred for the following reasons:
 - (a) Location is outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest.
 - (b) It is easily accessible to the central area of park development.
 - (c) Development would not significantly affect existing cultural and natural resources. (Land has been extensively modified by private development.)
 - (d) The site allows for future expansion of park facilities if determined necessary.
 - (e) The site provides adequate flood and fire protection.
- (2) Another potential site is identified on private property located at the south end of the park off Highway 49. This land is undeveloped and could accommodate existing maintenance and parking facilities and provide for their expansion.

Vehicle Parking

This plan proposes to retain certain existing parking areas, located outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, which are essential for the park's operations and visitor use. Some parking areas should be expanded to satisfy future demands.

Existing parking facilities to remain include:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | North Beach parking lot | (70 cars) |
| 2. | Marshall's Monument parking lot | (35 cars) |
| 3. | Museum parking lot | (15 cars) |

Proposed Parking Facilities

The proposed development of more parking facilities is based primarily on the need to replace parking facilities removed from the main historic areas. If and when more parking is needed, it should be considered.

Proposed facilities will provide parking near day-use picnic areas and proposed orientation areas on the park's perimeter. The existing small parking lot near the museum will be retained to serve the handicapped and elderly.

Three main visitor parking areas are proposed:

- (1) North Beach Parking Area - Proposed expansion is 100 cars. This development is discussed in the Proposed Recreation Facilities and Visitor Orientation sections of this plan.
- (2) Coloma Townsite Parking Area - An unpaved parking area will be established at the south end of Main Street, between this road and the river at the park's perimeter. The parking area will be near the main historic area and will accommodate about 30 vehicles. This area will provide an interim parking space for park visitors, concessioners, and handicapped persons.

A potential site for a main visitor parking and visitor orientation area is identified on the General Plan map. It is now privately owned. This parking area could accommodate about 100 vehicles, with potential for future expansion if determined necessary. Once acquisition and vehicle access to this area are determined, the location can be chosen.

- (3) American River Parking Area - A 100-car visitor parking lot, along with a proposed orientation and picnic area, will be located on the north side of the American River. Parking will be near picnic areas and interpretive facilities proposed by this plan.

A potential site for these facilities is identified on private property next to the existing state park boundary. This site is preferable since it is located outside the primary historic zone and will accommodate a greater number of cars without damaging natural and cultural resources.

The actual location of proposed parking facilities cannot be determined until a formal acquisition program can be initiated and engineering and traffic studies are completed.

Program for Development

The following program for development lists the general sequence of plan implementation in three phases. It will serve as a guideline for efforts to obtain future development funds. For further details on each proposal, refer to the sections "Proposed Land Use" and "Proposed Development."

PHASE I

Development in Phase I concentrates primarily on improvements to existing interpretive facilities and removal of modern intrusions in the historic areas.

Interpretive Facilities Development:

Stabilize the following historic structures:

Bell and Allen Store
Old Stone Jail

Restore the following historic structures:

Bekeart's Gunsmith Shop
Coloma Grays Armory
Weller House

Develop interpretive and hiking trails.

Develop Marshall's Monument Orientation Area to include interpretive panels and orientation displays.

Develop miscellaneous interpretive facilities throughout the park, including exhibits, signs, displays, models, and the like.

Expand the interpretive program to include: (1) regularly scheduled walks for discussing various subjects during high visitor use periods, (2) demonstrations of placer mining methods, and (3) development of "living history" activities.

Initiate a program for vegetation removal and identification of certain historical features throughout the park.

Recreation Facilities Development:

Relocate portable picnic tables from the Museum Picnic Area to North Beach Picnic Area.

Operations Facilities Development:

Establish "no parking zones" along Main Street.

Establish appropriate signing to eliminate visitor vehicle traffic from Marshall's Monument to High Street.

Remove Pioneer Building and concession building from Chinese Historic Area.

PHASE II

The primary development in Phase II is the reconstruction of the Gold Discovery Area and the relocation of certain park facilities.

Interpretive Facilities Development:

Reconstruct the 1847-48 mining camp scene and frontier settlement, including:

- (1) Double log cabin
- (2) Marshall's first cabin
- (3) Early miners' shelters such as tents, shanties, lean-tos, and others

Develop displays and exhibits of placer mining equipment in Gold Discovery Area.

Develop Gold Discovery Orientation Area to include interpretive panels and orientation displays.

Develop Coloma Townsite Orientation Area to include interpretive panels and orientation displays.

If feasible, relocate Sutter's Mill to original historic site. This development includes a realignment of the river course to its historic position, stabilization of the riverbank, excavation and removal of remaining mill timbers, and restoration of the mill tailrace.

Operations Facilities Development:

Remove parking lot and restroom from Sutter's Mill area and expand existing parking at the Gold Discovery Orientation Area.

Phase out existing maintenance facilities from historic area and construct these outside Zone of Primary Cultural Interest.

Remove carpenter shop from Coloma Townsite.

Restore historic Brewery Street, to be used for pedestrian and service traffic only.

Construct visitor parking and restrooms near Coloma Townsite Orientation Area.

PHASE III

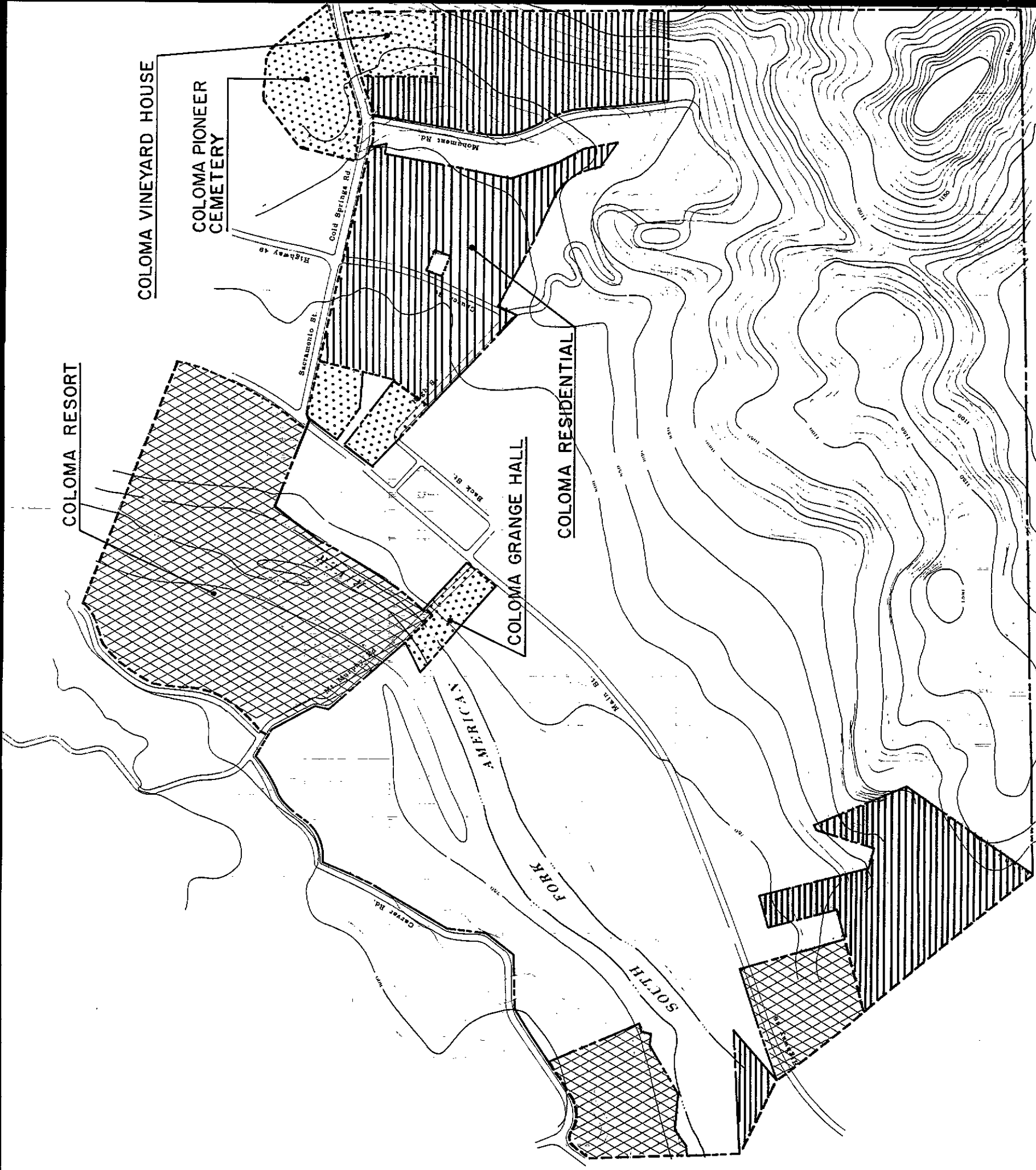
Development in Phase III focuses on the reconstruction of the Coloma Townsite and construction of additional parking lots.

Interpretive Facilities Development:

Reconstruct a few key historic buildings that existed during the 1847-1852 period along Main Street. For the list of potential reconstructions see Preservation, Restoration, and Reconstruction section.

Operations Facilities Development:

Remove certain structures, wherever necessary, from the Coloma Townsite when the reconstruction program is implemented.



LEGEND

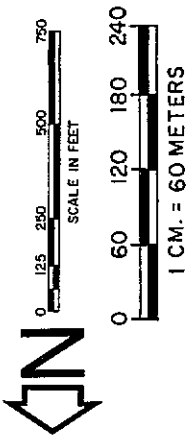
AREAS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE AND ESSENTIAL TO INTERPRETATION OF THE HISTORIC THEMES

AREAS NECESSARY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORIC INTEGRITY OF THE AREA

AREAS DESIRABLE FOR ADDITIONAL STATE PARK FACILITIES

STATE PARK BOUNDARY

STUDY AREA FOR POTENTIAL PARK ADDITIONS



ACQUISITION PROPOSALS SHOWN HERE ARE INTENDED FOR LONG-RANGE PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT A COMMITMENT FOR ACQUISITION.

FIGURE 14

POTENTIAL PARK ADDITIONS

Proposed Development Contingent on Construction of Proposed Coloma Bypass Road

Interpretive Facilities Development:

Develop American River Orientation Area to include interpretive panels and orientation displays.

Reconstruct wooden covered bridge, livery stable, corrals, etc., in the Pleasant Flat Area. (Before this proposal can be implemented, further research is needed to assure historical accuracy of the proposed reconstruction.)

Restore Main Street to simulate original paving and allow pedestrian and nonmotorized traffic only.

Recreation Facilities Development:

Should the need arise, expand existing parking and picnic facilities at the Gold Discovery Orientation Area. (The potential for restoring the historic orchards along with these picnic facilities should be considered.)

Develop picnic facilities near American River Orientation Area.

Operations Facilities Development:

Construct parking lot and restrooms near the American River Orientation Area.

Should the need arise, develop Maintenance and Service Area near the American River Orientation Area.

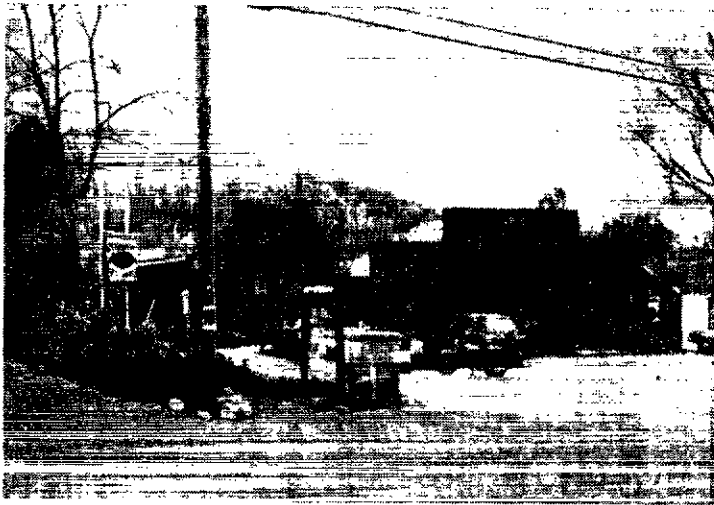
Remove parking lot and remaining picnic facilities from Chinese Historic Area when traffic is removed from Main Street.

Potential Park Additions

The following discussion and all previous comments regarding land acquisition are intended for long-range planning purposes only and are not commitments to acquisition.

In 1969 the Department of Parks and Recreation, developed a Land and Boundary Plan to establish guidelines to assist the El Dorado County Planning Commission in creating its long-range zoning and land use plans for the Coloma Area. Guidelines included zones of architectural and environmental control and a proposed park boundary. This plan was approved by the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation in 1969, and has since been used for long-range departmental planning at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP and in the Coloma vicinity.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors recently passed a resolution that requests the State of California to define the proposed park boundary of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP and proceed with the acquisition of property within this boundary.



Commercial business on Sacramento Street near the park

This plan proposes some modification to the 1969 proposed park boundary, but generally identifies the same areas as desirable future additions to the park. It also proposes the establishment of a "Development Control Zone" within which the department would like to see the county control development and use. This could be accomplished by proper zoning, architectural and design controls, and acquisition of scenic highway easements (see Potential Park Additions Map, p. 82).

The desirable additions are classified in three categories: (1) areas of historic significance essential to the interpretation of historic themes, (2) areas necessary for the preservation of the unit's historic integrity, and (3) areas desirable for additional state park facilities. Highest priority is given those areas that embrace prime historic features and whose acquisition is essential for the preservation of those features and the interpretation of historical themes.

The following park additions are shown on the Potential Park Additions Map.

(1) Areas of historic significance essential to the interpretation of historic themes

These areas contain historic features relating to the primary and secondary interpretive themes. Some of these require additional protection for their preservation as valuable historic resources. Others are necessary as part of the park's interpretive program.

Coloma Townsite (Commercial District)

This addition is bounded by Main Street (Highway 49) to the north and Sacramento Street to the east. In the center of the proposed addition is the Department of Parks and Recreation inholding containing the Odd Fellows Hall.

This addition is currently undeveloped. There is a potential for reconstructing historically significant buildings that would be valuable additions to the interpretive program. The 1974 State Park Bond Act provided funds for acquiring these parcels. Acquisition is currently under negotiation.



Coloma Grange Hall during weekend activities



Coloma Pioneer Cemetery

Coloma Grange Hall

This building is privately owned and operated by local residents of Coloma. The building stands as a present-day visual intrusion on the historic scene and occupies the site of Coloma's earliest commercial development in 1849. The large number of cars along Highway 49 during grange activities creates a hazardous traffic situation and is visually not in harmony with the historical appearance of the townsite.

The fact that the Grange Hall is not a historic structure, and that its use poses traffic problems, makes it an obstacle to the ultimate interpretation of the 1847-49 historic scene. However, the Department of Parks and Recreation will continue to monitor activities of the Grange until the development of the townsite advances to the point where the Grange Hall becomes completely incompatible with the historic scene. At such time this land should be acquired and the building removed from the historic core area.

Coloma Pioneer Cemetery

This cemetery is located next to the park on the east side of Cold Springs Road and Monument Road (Highway 153). It was the first cemetery established in El Dorado County and stands as a monument to many early Coloma residents who were instrumental in events during the gold rush era.

The cemetery is frequently visited by park visitors in their search to discover the many sites of historical interest in and around the park. The cemetery is under the jurisdiction of El Dorado County and is maintained and operated as an active cemetery through the help of many interested citizens and historical interest groups. There are immediate and long-range reasons for adding this property to the park. Management and maintenance is inadequate for proper protection and preservation of historic features. Increasing park visitation and more awareness of the cemetery's existence will require restoration and methods of visitor control to reduce the impact of people on this historic resource.

Coloma Vineyard House

This addition is identified as being historically significant to the primary historical period and a crucial part of the flow of history at Coloma. It includes the Coloma Vineyard House (restaurant-hotel) and winery ruins.

The current use of the house under private ownership poses no threat at this time either to the building or to the park. Historical authenticity in its restoration is of prime importance to its candidacy as a historical landmark. The Coloma winery ruins are located on the property adjacent to the house.

These additions are needed for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of these valuable historic resources and for a more adequate buffer to urban development than currently exists along Monument and Cold Springs roads.

(2) Areas necessary for the preservation of the unit's historic integrity

These additions include land next to historic structures under state park ownership, and land required to establish a more adequate buffer from urban development occurring on nearby private lands.

Coloma Residential Area

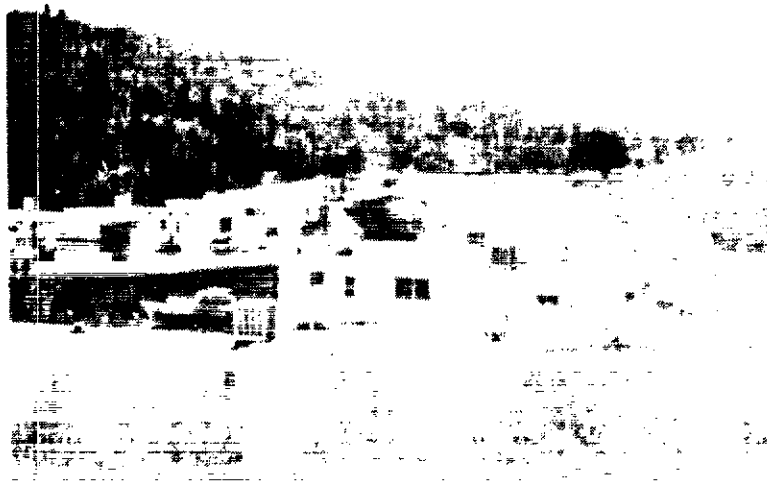
This addition includes private residences and commercial businesses, some of which are distractions from the program of historic preservation and restoration. This is due partially to adverse location and/or the lack of a compatible architectural character. Historically, these sites were occupied by private homes, orchards, and vineyards during the period when Coloma emerged as a viable agricultural community.

Many of the residences, with their remnants of orchards and vineyards, cannot be considered distractions from the historical setting. Some that are less harmonious with their surroundings could be slightly modified to be made compatible.

These lands extend from present state park boundaries to major wooded areas or to areas defined by natural topographic characteristics. They embrace areas within sight of the historic zone and include land along the scenic highway corridor of Highway 49 next to the park.



Few historic houses remain as evidence of Coloma's residential district



*Private development
within view from the park*

(3) Areas desirable for additional state park facilities

These additions include land adjacent to existing park boundaries and are recognized as having no major historic significance. They are identified for their potential as sites for the development of additional park facilities located outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest.

Coloma Resort Area

This area across the river and southeast of the unit boundary contains a campground and trailer park, which are visual and cultural intrusions and produce activities not in keeping with the objectives of the state historic park. Access to this side of the river, located near the main historic area, is limited to a narrow bridge. The long-range recommendation of this plan is for building the Coloma bypass road and diverting local traffic around the park to this side of the river. When the bypass is completed, there is the potential for development of the American River Orientation Area to include parking and picnic facilities. This area is also a potential site for the relocation of maintenance facilities outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. It contains a number of large native trees which provide shade and would offer screening for proposed park development.

(4) Other additions

These additions are identified for their potential use for parking, visitor orientation areas, and maintenance facilities proposed outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. These lands are desirable for their locations and proximity to the main historic area, and would be valuable additions to the park when Main Street is restored.

Recommendations for Further Study

The following investigations are necessary to completely implement the General Plan's management policies and proposed developments:

- o Investigate existing structures proposed for preservation and restoration to determine the extent of remodeling and modernization needed.
- o Determine the location, appearance, and use of buildings in Coloma during the prime interpretive period, 1847-1852, for an accurate reconstruction program.
- o Develop a historical sketch of features to be interpreted in the park.
- o Study the feasibility of realigning the American River and relocating the Sutter's Mill replica on the original mill site.
- o Continue support of efforts to construct a Coloma bypass road and realign Highway 49.
- o Evaluate the proper carrying capacity of the various areas in the park. The intensity of visitor use should be periodically monitored to assess damage to cultural and natural resources.
- o Investigate the feasibility of alternative energy sources, such as water, sun, and wind, for existing and proposed facilities. The American River may be particularly appropriate for powering the Sutter's Mill replica.
- o Develop improved methods of providing for handicapped people in the park.
- o Prepare a thorough description of the park's natural resources and relay this information to park visitors.



Coloma's main street, 1919

OPERATIONS ELEMENT





OPERATIONS ELEMENT

The previous chapters of this document have laid the groundwork for the future management and development of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. It is the actual method of park operation, however, that often leaves the longest lasting impression on the park visitor. The visitor's experience while in the park, and through later recall, is greatly affected by the subtle and positive way the park is operated and presented.

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the general guidelines by which the park will be operated. Most of the information presented is discussed in greater detail in the park's Area Operation Plan, on file at park headquarters.

The phased development proposals in this General Plan are designed to place a stronger emphasis on the historic event for which the park was established - James Marshall's gold discovery. The specific operational program to be developed for each development phase should at all times place the highest priority on that purpose. This philosophy is reflected in the following guidelines.

VISITOR CONTROL

Since state and private ownership is so intertwined in Coloma, many park visitors are unaware of exactly what property is state owned. Also, because of the many access roads and scattered locations of park facilities, it is sometimes difficult for visitors to obtain a clear awareness of park values. Although the General Plan proposes to improve this situation with the development of orientation areas and signing, the day-to-day operation of the park will play a major role in visitor control.

There is currently no single control point at the park. Visitors are charged for parking, and collections are made on foot. There is a public contact point in the museum for information and museum fee collection. This awkward system of fee collection is compounded by traffic congestion and random parking along Highway 49.

This plan proposes to reduce this problem by relocating certain parking areas and eliminating certain parking along the shoulder of Highway 49. This effort will be coordinated with the appropriate local, county, and state agencies.

Another aspect of visitor control is law enforcement. Park violations occur frequently, which demands a great deal of the rangers' time in protecting the park. Some of these involve attacks by stray dogs, drunk driving, juvenile drinking parties, and loaded firearms within the park.

Other problems that occur at the park include: illegal camping, unauthorized motor vehicles, stray cattle, vandalism, and fee collecting from river rafters. The county sheriff's office is very cooperative in patrolling the park at night and coming to the rangers' assistance on the rare occasions deputies are needed.

CONCESSIONS

The purpose of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP is to provide a historically representative setting and experience for park visitors. One way to enhance visitors' experiences is through the development of concession-operated commercial establishments. These businesses are regulated by the department to assure they enhance interpretation at the park.

One role of park personnel should be monitoring of concessionaires to see that their activities are compatible with the historic scene. Although the setting of a concession is important, its need to be accurate in detail may be tempered by the need of the public to engage in activities that are compatible with the historic scene yet likely never occurred at Coloma during the prime interpretive period.

RENTAL AGREEMENTS

There are currently two types of rental agreements for state-owned houses in the park: (1) those administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation, and (2) those administered by the Department of General Services. The first category consists primarily of residences occupied by park personnel. Some of these were constructed in Coloma before the park was established, others were built by the Department of Parks and Recreation in the late 1940s. The administration and maintenance of these buildings is handled by the department.

The second category consists of several residences, located on recently acquired park additions, which are managed and maintained by the Department of General Services. They are rented to private parties and, in some cases, to the previous owner.

All rental houses owned by the state should have esthetic controls placed on them if they are visible from the historic area. These controls should include the visibility of modern intrusions, such as automobiles, and the use of surrounding yards.

FIRE CONTROL

The dry, hot summer and fall months coupled with dense hillside growth and many wooden structures cause an extremely dangerous fire hazard. Some of the 70 buildings in the area are over 100 years old. The California Department of Forestry (CDF) is responsible for fire suppression. Its closest fire station is at Garden Valley, about five miles from Coloma.

The park has one 500-gallon CDF surplus fire truck and one 100-gallon slip-on fire pump which are used for initial suppression, pending arrival of CDF crews. One bad fire in August 1970 burned 160 acres, including 16 acres in the park.

VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Proper natural resource management includes protection of native plants and wildlife habitat. Native vegetation should be protected from unnecessary controls and from visitor abuse. The natural plant communities should be allowed to re-establish their status during the primary interpretive period and to flourish in all areas where they do not conflict with interpretive efforts. Wildlife habitat protection includes protection of soils, grasses, shrubs, trees, and all other natural resources used by wildlife.

Poison oak and star thistle are controlled in the public-use areas of the park by hand. The Chinese tree of heaven, a native of China, has an enormous amount of seeds on the mature trees and sends out numerous branches, or suckers, from its trunk. As a result, this tree reproduces and spreads rapidly. The unwanted young trees are pulled and dug up in certain areas. Some encroaching blackberry vines are periodically removed. Care should be taken not to destroy valuable historic varieties of ornamental plants when eradicating other plants.

Box elder bugs and yellow jackets at times cause problems and are controlled by poisoning and spraying with approved insecticides. The rodent problem is negligible other than for pack rats, which are controlled with poison grain and traps. Other management practices consist of patrols during hunting seasons for the protection of visitors and wildlife. Vigilance is maintained for rabid animals.

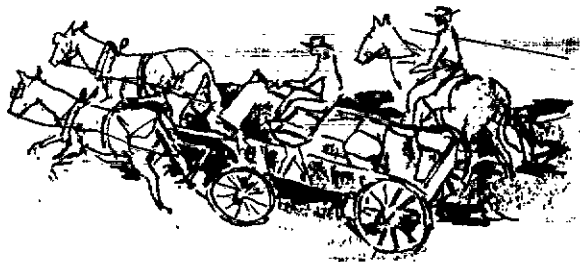
EROSION CONTROL

There is some erosion in the main day-use areas and along trails due to drainage and visitor use. This is normally corrected as it occurs. Burned areas are seeded with grass shortly before winter rainfall. In past years, as late as 1964, the American River has flooded parts of the valley, including the state highway, causing serious erosion problems. The department has had agreements with a local contractor for the removal of sand and gravel from designated areas in the river. The purpose is to prevent flooding by widening and deepening the river channel. Special care should continue to be taken when removing sand and gravel from the river to prevent damage to the gold discovery site.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT





ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The department intends at this park to provide the general public with an opportunity to enjoy the California gold discovery site and appreciate the related early development of Coloma. In addition, an effort will be made to satisfy some of the recreation demands of El Dorado County.

The proposed development is consistent with these objectives and in harmony with environmental conditions.

The plan proposes that the picnic areas, parking areas, and maintenance facilities be moved to the perimeter of the park and outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. There are alternative locations for the picnic, parking, and maintenance areas, if acquisition of land outside the present park boundary is not possible. Several historic structures would be reconstructed to provide visitors with a more historical view of the scene at Coloma during the primary interpretive period (1847-1852). This would require demolition in some cases. Two alternative bypass roads are possible, one on each side of the river. New trails and interpretive facilities are proposed.

This environmental impact element presents a general assessment of environmental impacts. When specific development plans are drawn up and budgeted, the department will undertake a more intensive review of the environmental impacts and prepare any necessary environmental documents.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Please refer to the Inventory of Features, on file with the department.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The following significant adverse effects could occur if the preferred plan or its alternatives are implemented. Mitigation measures may reduce or eliminate these effects.

1. The reconstruction of the mill and realignment of the river could damage the remains of the original mill.
2. Realignment of the river could cause bank erosion, riverbed degradation, and loss of riparian vegetation. The South Fork of the American River project (SOFAR) may alter flows to the extent that there may be insufficient flow to drive the mill's water wheel. The reduced flow will cause only minimal bank erosion.
3. Acquisition of additional property would decrease county revenue from property taxes.
4. Acquisition of residences and commercial facilities would displace some present owners.
5. The demolition of nonhistoric structures and the construction of new facilities would cause fuel consumption, air pollution, consumption of building materials, noise, and the temporary interruption of recreational activities.

6. Increased recreational use would cause more traffic, fuel consumption, pollution, solid waste, sewage, water use, and trail erosion.
7. Development of the Coloma bypass road and construction of parking areas would result in increased air pollution in certain areas, more fuel consumption, more noise during construction, soil erosion of cuts and fills, loss of vegetation, and more runoff.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED IF THE PROPOSAL IS IMPLEMENTED

The following impacts are unavoidable if the preferred plan or any of its alternatives is implemented. These effects can be reduced but not eliminated.

1. Each acquisition will reduce county revenue from property taxes.
2. There will be an increase in traffic, air pollution, water consumption, and waste generation with the increase of visitors.

MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED TO MINIMIZE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The proposed plan provides some mitigation for existing adverse conditions. The measures listed below are those the department will undertake to reduce the effects that result from implementing the plan. (See table 8.)

1. The remains of the original mill will be excavated and preserved by qualified professionals.
2. The department will attempt to reduce bank erosion by bank stabilization where the river is rechanneled for the reconstruction of the mill.
3. The state will provide relocation assistance, as required by law, to the residents of any property acquired by the state.
4. Constructing the Coloma bypass road and placing parking areas at the perimeter of the park would have several effects. It would reduce the visual conflict of automobiles with the historic scene; reduce the traffic hazard on Main Street; reduce noise and air pollution levels in the unit; facilitate traffic flow on State Highway 49; and reduce fuel consumption by encouraging foot traffic through the park.
5. Trail development and maintenance should reduce soil erosion along trails.

Table 8
Significant Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

<u>Significant Environmental Effects</u>	<u>Mitigation Measures</u>
1. Damage to remains of original mill	1. Excavation and preservation of remains
2. Bank erosion and loss of riparian vegetation.	2. Bank stabilization
3. Displacement of residents and businesses	3. Relocation assistance
4. Increased air pollution	4. Construction of bypass road
5. Increased fuel consumption	5. Construction of bypass road
6. Increased soil erosion	6. Trail development and maintenance
7. Loss of county property tax revenue	
8. Increased waste production	

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The General Plan identifies some specific alternative locations for facilities, and their impacts have been considered and described. The general alternatives considered in this section are: (1) no project, (2) higher intensity of development, (3) less development, and (4) reduced acquisition.

1. No Project

This would continue unit operation at the present level of development. Peak level use now occasionally exceeds some facility capacities. Future recreational increases would further affect traffic and parking, trails, interpretive facilities, and visitor use facilities. There would be no decrease in county property tax revenue.

The "no project" alternative would not have the ameliorative effects of the plan. Interpretation of the prime historical period, 1847-1852, would be limited. Demand for additional recreational facilities would be unmet.

2. Higher Intensity of Development

There is a potential for more development than proposed. Additional restoration, parking, and picnicking facilities are possible. Future demand may require some expansion of these. The preferred plan attempts a compromise between the sometime conflicting goals of providing recreational facilities and preserving historical values.

Increased development could encourage additional traffic and visitation and their impacts. Demand for building materials and labor would increase.

3. Less Development

Less development than proposed would be a compromise between the preferred plan and the existing situation. If the Coloma bypass road is not built, present traffic problems will continue and most likely worsen. By not reconstructing historic structures, a potential demand for building materials and labor would be eliminated. Reduction of picnicking facilities and parking areas proposed in the preferred plan would have the same effect. Parking problems will continue if parking areas are not increased.

At present there are too few picnicking facilities in the region to meet regional demand. This alternative would not alter this fact.

4. Reduced Acquisition

There is a range of possibilities to this alternative.

- A. The state would acquire no more land. Development would be restricted to land already owned by the state. If recreation and park facility needs were to be met on existing state property, it might become necessary to develop historically or environmentally inappropriate land. Adverse development could occur in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. County property tax revenue would not be affected and residents would not face the prospect of relocation.
- B. The state would acquire only conservation easements (i.e., development rights). The county would still receive property tax revenue. Relocation of residents would not be necessary. Adverse or inappropriate development could be controlled. Historic structures could not be reconstructed or recreation facilities constructed on those lands on which the state acquired a conservation easement.
- C. The state would acquire only land in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. This would reduce county property revenue. Relocation assistance would be provided to the residents of the acquired properties. Historic structures would be reconstructed. Development of recreation facilities would be restricted, or would intrude on the historic scene. Land outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest would still be available for private development.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The proposed short-term and long-term uses are the same as the present uses. An exception would be found on the properties that might be acquired. The proposed uses are nonconsumptive (i.e., they do not use up the resources). In the future, if a more beneficial use of the unit is discovered, the potential for resource productivity will not be affected. The proposed recreational use of the acquired land displaces some agricultural, commercial, and residential uses. These changes would not be irreversible.

The long-term impacts of the project are increases in recreational use, traffic, air pollution, water consumption, sewage, and solid waste, and the loss of land available for private development. Other local projects, especially the proposed SOFAR project, would contribute to increased traffic, air pollution, and demands for tourist-support facilities in the area.

Overall, the General Plan gives direction for development and acquisition in the state historic park. It partially meets existing recreation facility deficiencies. It reduces the threat of adverse private development. And it could keep acquisition costs to a minimum if initiated before the SOFAR project is started and land costs rise.

SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED

1. The demolition of nonhistoric structures and the irreversible loss of all or part of the building materials. Fuel would be consumed in construction, demolition, and operation activities.
2. The excavation of the remains of the original mill, which could involve the irreplaceable loss of cultural artifacts and information. Future techniques will probably surpass present methods of excavation, preservation, data recovery, and interpretation.
3. The commitment of nonrenewable resources, such as oil, gasoline, and gravel, to construct roads, parking areas, and other park facilities.
4. The use of energy sources, such as water, electricity, and propane, to serve newly constructed park facilities.
5. A loss of open space due to the development and reconstruction of historic buildings and other park facilities.
6. The removal of several structures incompatible with the historic scene.

GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

1. The acquisition of property will create a demand for new property and structures to replace those acquired by the state.
2. Additional visitor-use facilities will attract more visitors, though not at all times. (Past experience has shown that various events at the unit, rather than facility capacity, have determined peak-level use.) More visitors will create a demand for more tourist accommodations, such as motels, campgrounds, shops, and service stations.
3. Expansion of park facilities and more visitation may require employment of additional park system personnel.
4. Construction of the Coloma bypass road, parking areas, picnic areas, and other facilities will require building materials. This will maintain or increase the need for materials and labor.
5. Increased water and power consumption could cumulatively create a demand for the construction of additional water and power facilities.

EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

1. The impact on Native American archeological resources was considered negligible because there are no known sites other than the bedrock mortars and midden site in Coloma. Previous development, mining, and agriculture have probably already destroyed other resources.
2. A minor effect would be the alteration of runoff and peak flow patterns as a result of more impervious surface. The increase in impervious surface is relatively small in relation to the entire watershed.
3. While peak noise levels during construction and demolition may be as high as 115 decibels, these levels would be short lived. Traffic noise would be relocated with the construction of a bypass road.
4. The loss of vegetation is not considered a significant impact because the area has little ecological significance. Native vegetation could return to those areas where development has been removed.
5. There should be no impact on any rare and/or endangered species. None are known to inhabit the area, although the bald eagle or peregrine falcon may visit the area.
6. The demand for county services would not increase significantly. Park staff should be able to provide some emergency services.

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Appendixes



Appendix A
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITY



MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY

state historic park

NEWS BULLETIN

WHAT'S HAPPENING

For those of you who are joining us for the first time, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is currently developing a plan for the future of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about the progress of our park planning. We would like to thank those of you who filled out our questionnaire or attended the first workshop on January 26. Your comments will help us develop the alternative plans which we will present at our next workshop.

PLANNING PROCESS

- ☒ Organizing the planning job
- ☒ Gathering information
- ☒ Developing alternatives
- ☐ Evaluating alternatives
- ☐ Composing a single plan

public comments

A wide variety of opinions were expressed in the first workshop and in the questionnaire. The information we gathered may help you decide what would be the best possible plan for the park.

To date, over 200 people have shown an interest to participate in the planning of Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. We have received about 100 questionnaires so far expressing a number of concerns and varied comments about the park.

here is a summary of WHAT WE HEARD



park activities ?

What Kinds of Activities Should Be Included at the Park?

Among the activities listed in the questionnaire, the seven most popular with park visitors were: self-guided tours, picnicking, gold panning, sight-seeing, photography, hiking, and guided tours. Fewer people desired more active types of recreation such as: fishing, swimming, rafting, and camping. Horseback riding, bicycling, dramas, and children's playground are included in the list of other activities suggested by only a few people.

Many people felt existing day-use facilities are adequate, but consideration should be given to picnic areas near the river with tree cover for shade. On heavy visitation days, many visitors are disturbed by the congestion of people and cars, particularly in the main historic area.

Suggestions were made for more interpretive and nature trails including horseback riding and bike paths. Camping was recommended by a few, but most people felt it should remain outside the park and operated by private concessioners.

Other statements from letters and questionnaires included:

Your comments!

"Demonstration panning can be an educational experience without tearing up the river bank."

"Provide a childrens playground."

"Have antique shows and fiddling contests."

"Provide free fishing in special areas, separate from swimming areas."

"No horseback riding."

"More interpretive hikes and gold panning demonstrations."

"Activities not requiring park personnel assistance — absolutely no commercial concessionaires."

"Provide camping for groups."

"The park itself is too small to include campsites, so they should be outside the park."

"Provide bike paths."

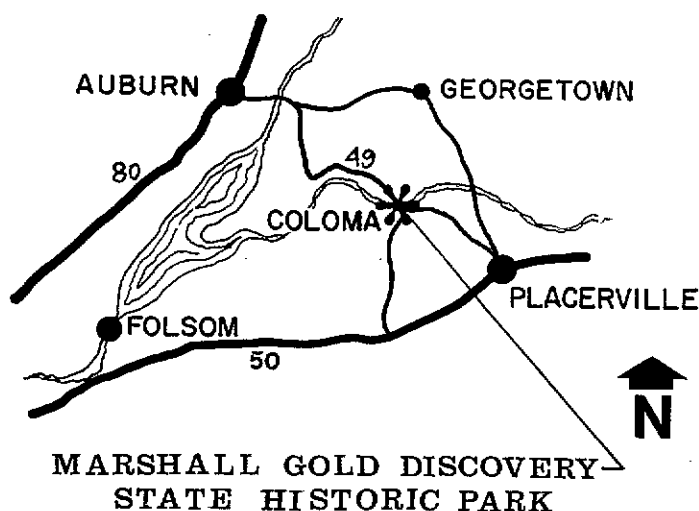
Relocation of Highway 49 to By-Pass the Park.

Highway 49 currently bisects the park and causes congestion between through-traffic and park visitors. This situation presents a hazardous condition for pedestrians and local traffic in the Coloma area. Many people also felt this safety problem is also created by the improper location of parking and day-use areas.

Many respondents favored a realignment of the highway, but feel the expense would be too great. Others feel it is absolutely necessary for the benefit of the park and the Coloma area.

Although many people understand the problem of increasing traffic through Coloma, they opposed any change of the location of the highway. As one person wrote; "the 'Gold Chain' is part of the history of the area, also the park is a pleasant discovery for people who are sightseeing along Highway 49."

**"Historic
highway 49"**



Other comments included:

Safety..... Access..... Cost ??

"I believe this would help pull the park together — the road divides the park."

"This would be too expensive although desirable."

"No! No! No!"

"A big mistake — some travellers never leave a highway."

"I would consider this essential to make best use of the park."

"No, please don't make a mini-freeway." "What happened to travelling and enjoying passing through our towns?"

"Actual relocation route would have to be known." Definitely not on the other side of river."

"It would help relieve the traffic congestion on busy weekends."

"It would be safer for those using the park, if it didn't inconvenience the local residents."

"As soon as possible."

"Most people would want to stop at Coloma anyway."

Restorations and Reconstruction of Historic Buildings

The majority of comments and concerns we received, were on these topics. Opinions ranged from the total reconstruction of Main Street as it appeared during the 1850's to only the necessary "preservation" of existing historic structures and no reconstruction.

Many people wanted to develop Coloma into "the way it was", to include reconstruction of the historic business districts. Others felt only a few buildings typical of the early 1850's should be reconstructed. Many visitors are interested in seeing Coloma as it appeared during the period between 1847-1850, with the major emphasis on the actual gold discovery and mining activity.

Comments and suggestions varied considerably. Some examples of the interesting comments were:

"Old buildings create interest and promote learning."

"Yes, this would help represent the historic authenticity of the area."

"Might end up like another Columbia State Park."

"Reconstruction — Yes, but low priority."

"Concentrate on Gold Discovery story."

"Building sites should be cleared for viewing, photos and architectural drawings posted near building remains. However, I feel that the sense of historic value and the effects of time are more impressive if buildings are left in their present decayed condition."

"Yes, so that it will be here for another generation and those following."

"No, restoration somehow 'erases' the historical flavor of a building. I would prefer to see preservation"

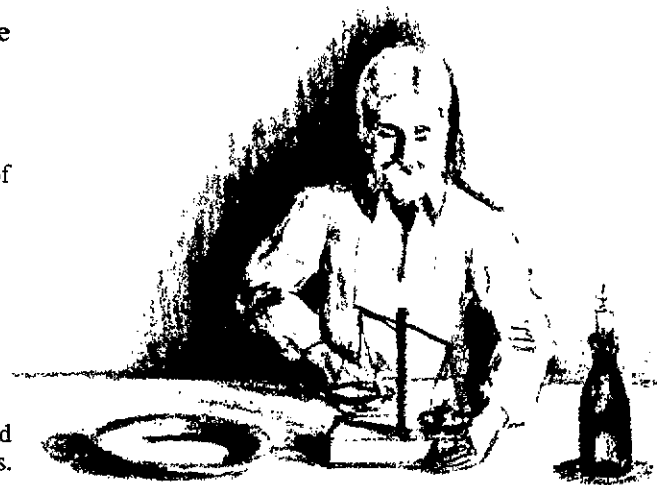
"Restoration, Yes — Old Coloma Greys Building. Put in exhibits, consider the Markham House."

Reconstruction — "Old Bell & Allen Store would be interesting but so expensive to do"

"Yes, but please no more gift or souvenir or antique shops"

"Yes, yes, with furnishings. Wonderful, informative for all"

"the way it was"



Relocation of Sutter's Sawmill to Original Site.

SUTTER'S MILL

The majority of respondents felt historical authenticity is important if the expense isn't too great, and if it is physically possible.

Due to changes in the course of the American River and flood hazard conditions, Sutter's Sawmill was reconstructed in 1968 about 600 feet from its original location. Most people felt that relocating the sawmill back to this site should not have a high priority but the existing sawmill should be operated by water.

SOME OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED WERE:

"Authenticity is always more desirable, that is if its accessible to the visitor."

"Only if it could be made safe from flooding." "Make it workable by water for demonstrations."

"Consider flooding, access by elderly and handicapped, and protection against vandals."

"Save the \$ for better things."

"I believe the actual site adds meaning to reconstructions."

"Its in a good location, and not that important to have at its original site. It is close enough."

"Good idea! Create the excitement of seeing where it really happened."

"It seems right where it is now."

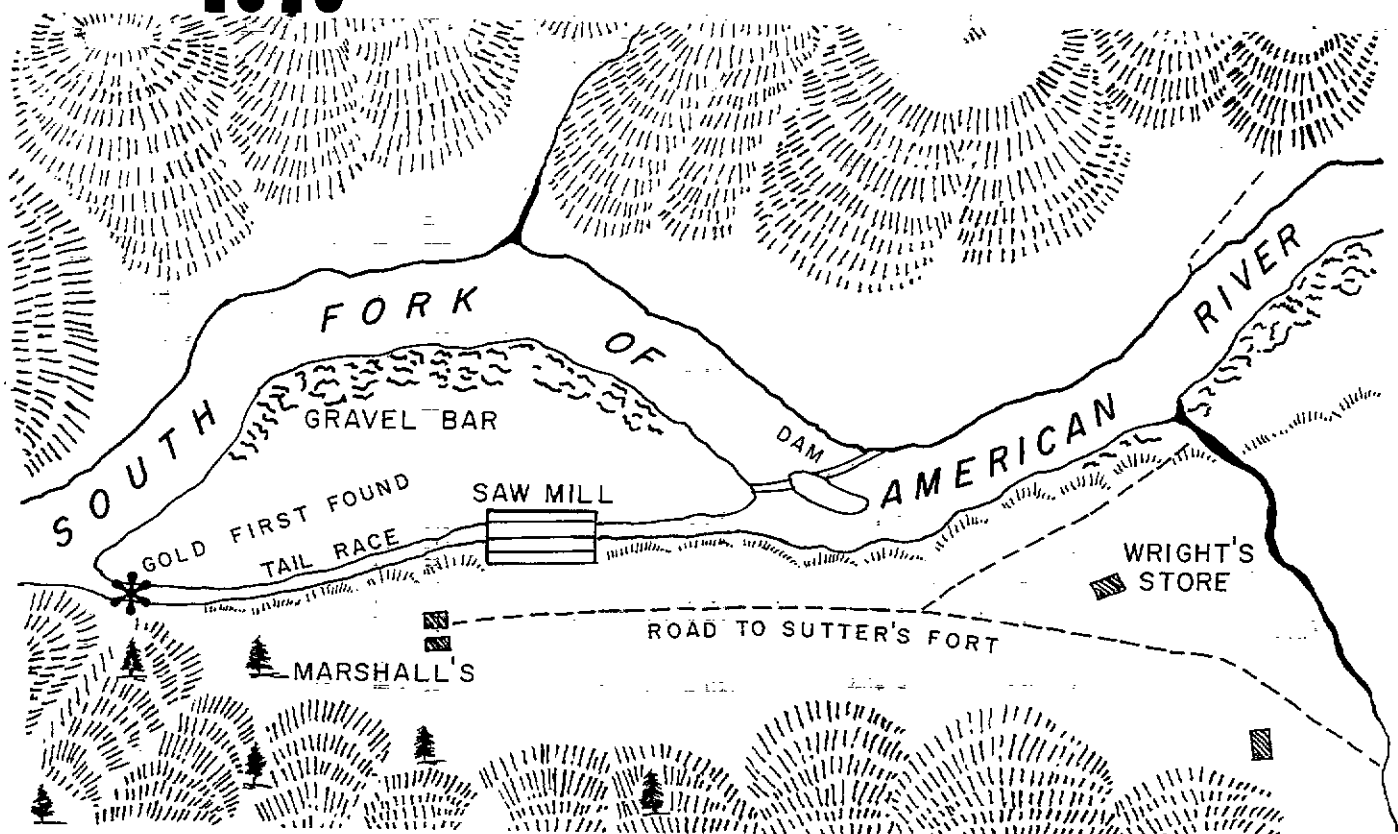
"It should be a working model (tailrace and all) in original position."

"I don't really see the necessity of moving it unless you can't run it with water where it is now."

**as it looked
1848**

REPRODUCTION OF MAP OF GOLD DISCOVERY SITE

Drawn by Col. R. B. Mason, Military Governor of California. To accompany report dated September 10, 1848 to United States President J. K. Polk.



The First Public Workshop

1st public workshop

About 70 people, mostly from the Coloma area, attended the first public workshop on January 26, 1978. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the planning process and identify the needs and desires of park visitors. We received the names of many individuals and organizations that are interested in participating in our plan.

Although a number of issues were raised, the discussion centered around four topics: the reconstruction of historic buildings, concessions, camping, and additional land acquisition for the park. Many people expressed a desire to reconstruct some of the buildings that existed in Coloma during the early 1850's, but the overwhelming majority were against a major reconstruction program, similar to the one at Columbia State Historic Park. Several citizens felt that visitors, in general, expect more tourist attractions at the park and additional concessions, particularly food service, should be provided. Others were strongly opposed to any further commercial development in Coloma.

Most people thought that camping facilities at the park were unnecessary because of the numerous private campgrounds in the vicinity. Several people, however, felt if camping was provided, it would receive considerable use. The issue of land acquisition was highly controversial. Although most of the comments were against large amounts of acquisition by the state, many citizens wanted more land added to the park to protect Coloma from undesirable modern development. Others felt no additional land is needed, and money should be spent for development of property already owned by the state.

Comments.....

Suggestions!!

Additional comments, concerns, or suggestions received included:

"The park should be maintained as part of the regional history and heritage of all Americans, but it should not be developed into an amusement park. Social impact on the larger community should also be considered."

"Why spend a lot of money buying property when you're not doing anything with what you have." "Stop treating it like it was sacred." "Get that street looking like it did in 1850."

"Make Marshall's Monument more a part of the park."

"I would like to see a reforestation program initiated, native trees are an important part of our local history."

"Self-guided trails in the hills behind the visitor center would be very popular with visitors."

"We need more businesses that tie in with the Gold Rush days — candy store, antique shops, bake shops, etc."

"Give a more detailed, realistic picture of 1850's Coloma residences. The story is glorified; little is told about the irrevocable changes made in the land, for instance, as a result of the gold rush."

"We need more businesses that tie in with the Gold Rush days — candy store, antique shops, bake shops, etc."

"Give a more detailed, realistic picture of 1850's Coloma residences. The story is glorified; little is told about the irrevocable changes made in the land, for instance, as a result of the gold rush."

"Display placer mining equipment near the river, with visitor participation in gold panning."

"More history of the Indians (before the gold discovery)."

"Explain in more detail, the role of the Chinese laborers and miners."

"Would like to see an explanatory sign on each and every outdoor artifact."

"More history on El Dorado County pioneer families who were active in the mining industry."

"There should be no charge for parking, only at the museum and for picnicking."

"Elimination of Highway 49 through Coloma and off-site parking with visitors walking or being bussed to central area."

"Artifacts displayed from other areas should be separate from those used at Coloma."

"M.G.D.S.H.P. should only present artifacts of that area."

"Display of artifacts from other areas is educational and helps to compare."

"I think it is very important that the goals of this park be spelled out in specific terms before any detailed planning takes place. In the past there has been a great deal of inconsistency in historic park planning because of the lack of overall park guidelines."



Appendix B
RESOURCES MAPS

LEGEND

TOPOGRAPHY

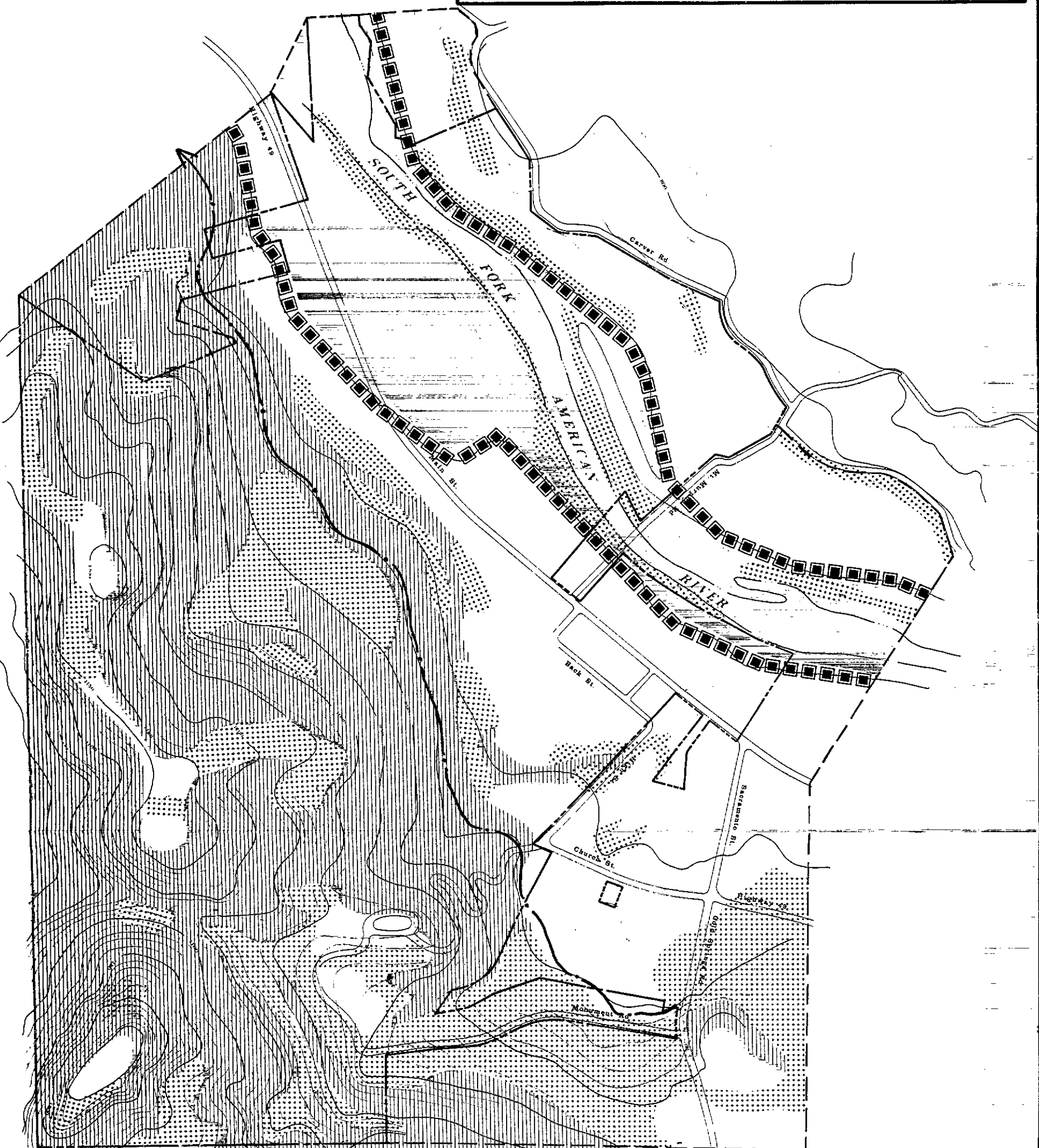
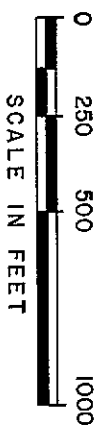
- - - - STUDY AREA
 - - - - PARK BOUNDARY
 0 - 10% SLOPES - HIGH DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
 10 - 20% SLOPES - MODERATE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
 OVER 20% SLOPES - LOW DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

HYDROLOGY

- IRRIGATION DITCH
☐ ☐ ☐ FLOOD ZONE

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

- | SENSITIVE AREAS | | POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FLOOD HAZARD ZONE | | FLOOD WATER DAMAGE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20% + SLOPE | | VISUAL SCAR |



TOPOGRAPHY & HYDROLOGY

PLATE
A

REVISIONS		DATE	DESIGNED
			DRAWN
			CHECKED

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

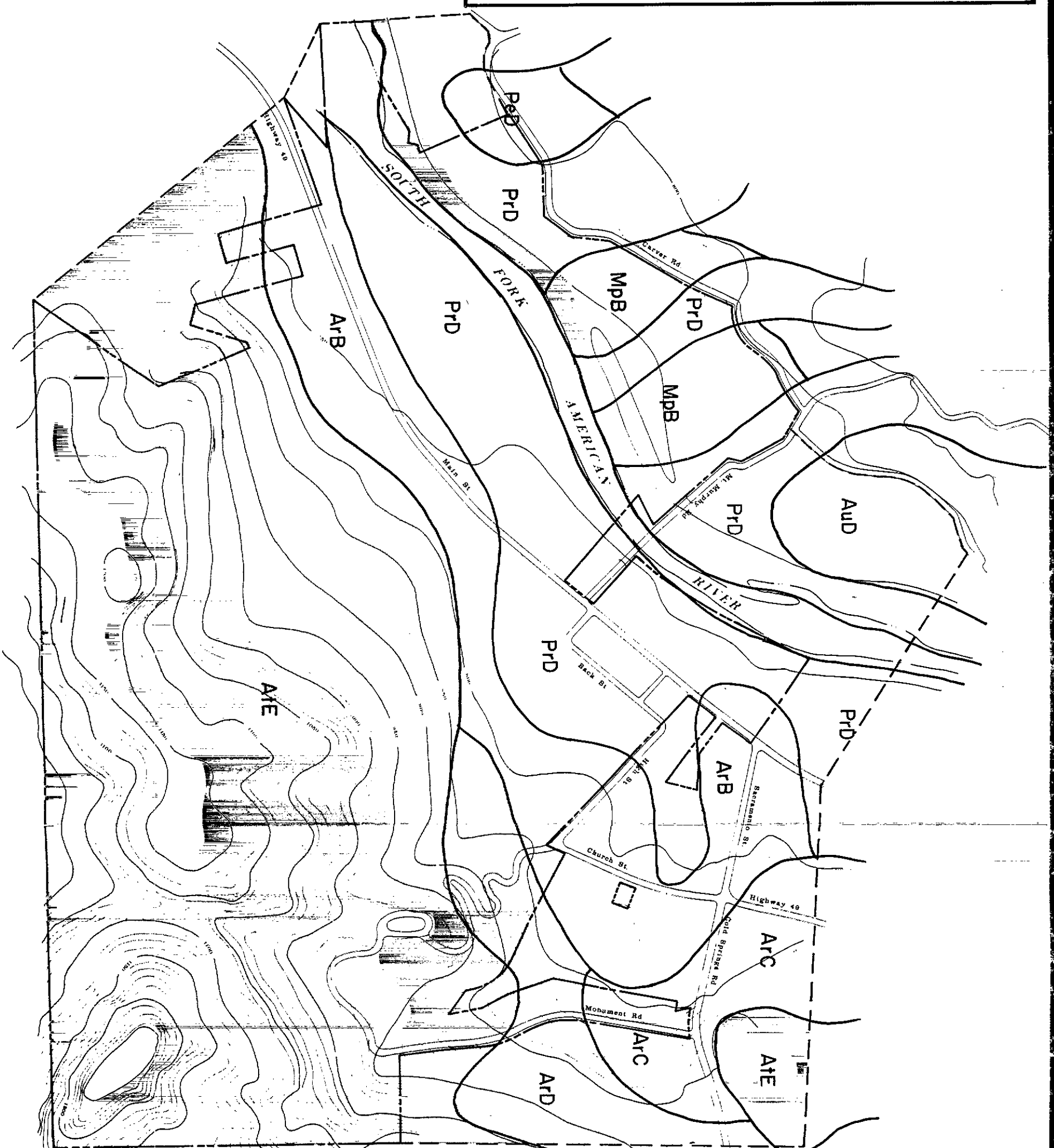
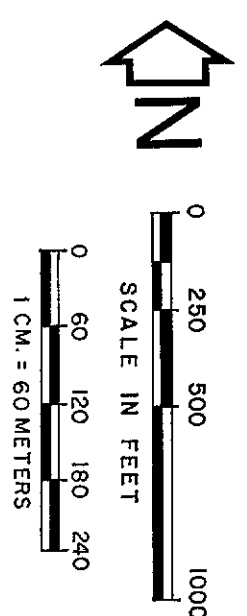
MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY S.H.P.
RESOURCE ELEMENT
TOPOGRAPHY & HYDROLOGY

DRAWING NO.
16694

♀

LEGEND
SOIL PHASES

- STUDY AREA
 - PARK BOUNDARY
 - ArB AUBERRY COARSE SANDY LOAM 5 to 9% SLOPES
 - Arc AUBERRY COARSE SANDY LOAM 9 to 15% SLOPES
 - ArD AUBERRY COARSE SANDY LOAM 15 to 30% SLOPES
 - AIE AUBERRY VERY ROCKY COARSE SANDY LOAM 30 to 50% SLOPES
 - AUD AUBERRY VERY ROCKY COARSE SANDY LOAM MODERATELY DEEP, 9 to 30% SLOPES
 - MPB MIXED ALLUVIAL LAND
 - PeD PERKINS GRAVELLY LOAM 3 to 30% SLOPES
 - PrD PLACER DIGGINGS
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS
- SENSITIVE AREA POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT
- SOILS ON 30% + SLOPES SOIL EROSION



SOILS

PLATE B

DRAWING NO. 16694	MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY S.H.P. RESOURCE ELEMENT SOILS	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	APPROVED _____ DATE _____	DESIGNED	DATE
				DRAWN	
				CHECKED	

REVISIONS	DATE

VEGETATION

LEGEND

VEGETATION

- STUDY AREA
 - PARK BOUNDARY
 - TREES AND SHRUBS
 - GROUNDCOVER (PRIMARILY OPEN GRASSLANDS)
 - ORCHARDS (FRUIT TREES)
- ### ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS
- SENSITIVE AREA
 - LANDMARK TREES (SHOWN ON EARLY HISTORIC MAPS)
 - MATURE OAK GROVES
 - POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT
 - LOSS OF HISTORIC FEATURE
 - LOSS OF UNIQUE VEGETATION

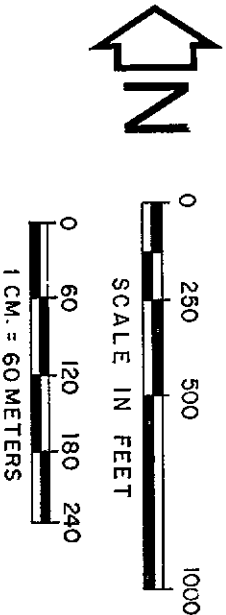


PLATE C

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY S.H.P.
RESOURCE ELEMENT
VEGETATION

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

REVISIONS

DATE

DESIGNED

DRAWN

CHECKED

DRAWING NO.
16694

SHEET NO.

OF

VISUAL QUALITY

PLATE D

SHEET NO.
OF

DRAWING NO.
16694

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY S.H.P.
RESOURCE ELEMENT
VISUAL QUALITY

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED _____ DATE _____

REVISIONS

DATE

DESIGNED

DRAWN

CHECKED

LEGEND

VISUAL INTRUSIONS ON THE HISTORIC SCENE

STUDY AREA

PARK BOUNDARY

MODERN BUILDINGS

PARKING AREAS

ROADS

PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

SCENIC VIEWS

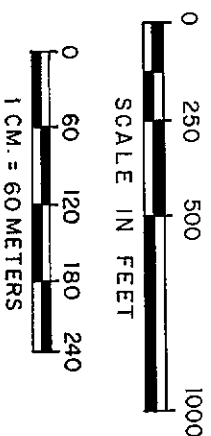
PANORAMIC VIEWS

SENSITIVE AREA

POSSIBLE
EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

SCENIC LANDSCAPES

VISUAL INTRUSION



AMERICAN RIVER:

One of the outstanding visual features in the park
Serves as a valuable resource for historic interpretation and recreation

PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT:

High density mobile home park is clearly visible from the east side of the river and hillsides within the park

PLEASANT FLAT AREA:

Open grassland with a few scattered oaks
area clearly visible from the gold discovery site and hillsides within the park

GOLD DISCOVERY

The only development, a stone marker of the mill site, is bordered by the American River and scattered clusters of native trees

PARKING AREA:

Automobiles in this area are clearly visible from the high-land historic area

MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE AREA:

Partially screened from highway by existing vegetation, but is incompatible with historic scene

PARKING AND PICNIC AREA:

Well designed, around existing vegetation (which partially screens the parking from the highway and gold discovery site). Determined by some to be an intrusion on the historic scene

COLOMA TOWNSITE:

Several modern buildings still remain in this area and intrude on the historic scene along Main Street

PICNIC AREA:

Existing picnic area within picturesque oak grove
The large numbers of picnickers in this area create an intrusion on the historic scene

MARSHALL'S MONUMENT:

Filtered view of gold discovery site
Periodic selective clearing should be used to maintain views

Panoramic View of Gold Hill Area:

Dense vegetation on rolling hills, few orchards and residences throughout this area

View of Historic Areas:

View can be enhanced by selective clearing.

NATURAL AREA:

This area consists of a variety of native vegetation types
No development has occurred other than selective clearing for fire control

Panoramic View of Mt. Mulhenny:

Rolling hills with scattered oaks
Presently undeveloped, but visible from road and mining operations

View of Historic Areas:

Gold Discovery Site, American River, Marshall's Monument, and Coloma Townsite
Private mobile home park is clearly visible from this area

Panoramic View of Lotus Valley:

Rural community with open, flat agricultural lands
Valley bordered by rolling hills and the American River
Present development consists of Lotus townsite, private residences, and county roads.
Some Commercial Activity does exist along the American River near Lotus